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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-121 *21 June 1996*

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International Affairs: Butrus-Ghali—U.S. Has 6 Months To 'Reconsider' Objection

MM21Q6102896 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jun 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by Mahmud 'Atallah and Khalil Matar: "Butrus-Ghali Says: United States Still Has Six Months To Reconsider Its Objection to My Nomination"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, New York — UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali expressed his hope that the United States will reconsider its objection to his reelection as UN secretary general.

Dr. Ghali told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone from Bonn: We have six months before the final decision is made, and I hope that Washington will reconsider its objection.

The secretary general added that there are 184 other member states of the international organization, and that his decision to run for a second term has been taken in the light of the strong support he has received from the member states.

Asked why he does not announce his decision to run for a second term in Bonn, he said that he prefers to announce the decision at UN headquarters in New York.

He added: They say that I will be 78 at the end of my term. My reply is that I am in good health and have enough energy and dynamism to continue what I have achieved, because a great deal needs to be done over the next five years.

The White House announced yesterday "President Bill Clinton's complete objection" to Dr. Ghali's reelection for a second term. It said: "No way is the U.S. President going to change his opinion." [passage omitted]

International Affairs: UN Envoy Voices Support for Butrus-Ghali Reelection

NC2006212796 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 20 Jun (MENA)—Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, Egypt's permanent representative at the United Nations, has stressed that Egypt backs Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali and fully supports his nomination for another five-year term as a UN secretary general.

Al-'Arabi was answering a question at a news conference he held in his capacity as the current UN Security Council president to review the Council's activity for June.

Instead of the journalists focussing on the issues that were raised or will be raised before the Security Council this month, the questions concentrated on the clamor, or rather the tempest, created by Dr. Butrus-Ghali's announcement in an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES in Bonn yesterday that he had decided to run for a second term. The Clinton Administration's reaction to this announcement showed for the first time — and despite U.S. officials' statements to the contrary — that that administration has decided since 25 March to oppose reappointment of Butrus-Ghali even if it has to use the veto to implement this decision, which was taken by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi expressed astonishment that this subject has come up and the campaign against the UN secretary general has started at this particular time. He said it is too early to discuss this subject, which is usually brought up for discussion in October. However, he said, Butrus-Ghali is still the legally elected secretary general, and his current term will not end before December.

Reacting to American criticism of Butrus-Ghali's performance, Dr. Nabil al-'Arabi said Dr. Butrus-Ghali has so far done his job very competently. He added: As for the failure or success of the UN operations, I believe all member states bear as much blame for the failure as the secretary general.

On the possibility of one state imposing its decision on the will of the Security Council, Dr. al-'Arabi said Dr. Butrus-Ghali represents Egypt and Africa, and neither will abandon support for him.

He referred to the previous elections that Butrus-Ghali had won. He said: All European countries opposed the election of any African candidate. Nevertheless, and even though there were European candidates vetted by important European countries, Africa's will triumphed. The African candidate won and no veto was used against him.

He said he believes Africa can achieve what it wants if it insists on nominating Dr. Butrus-Ghali.

On another issue, Dr. al-'Arabi said he will meet Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, who will leave Baghdad at the end of the week, and receive his report on the results of his talks in Iraq. The Security Council may meet on the same day if there was an urgent need for such a meeting, he said.

Asked about the possibility of military action against Iraq if it fails to comply with Resolution 1040, Dr. al-'Arabi said: Ekeus is still in Iraq and we cannot speculate on the results of his visit.

He added: "As for Egypt, it was one of the countries that expressed dissatisfaction over a paragraph in a draft

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presidential statement in which the Security Council announced that failure to allow inspectors to enter the specified sites would represent a substantial violation of the cease-fire agreement. This could have been interpreted as support from the Security Council for a military strike against Iraq. The paragraph was deleted from the draft statement because a number of states, including Egypt, opposed it."

He added: "Even if Iraq made a mistake, it does not mean a violation of the cease-fire."

Dr. al-'Arabi stressed that the majority of the Security Council members oppose any measure leading to the shelling of Baghdad.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: Kuwaiti Delegation Arrives for Ministers' Meeting

NC2006170296 Cairo MENA in English 1640 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 20 (MENA)—Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Minister of Planning 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil arrived here today together with his accompanying delegation to attend the Arab foreign ministers' preparatory meetings for the pan-Arab summit.

The summit, which is the first get-together of Arab leaders in six years, will open on Saturday [22 June].

Inter-Arab: Lebanon's Buwayz Explains Expectations From Arab Summit

NC2006173096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Jun 96

[Statement by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz upon arrival in Cairo on 20 June—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanon views the developments after the Israeli elections as a major threat to the peace process. Netanyahu won the elections. His proposals and those of the Likud Party are based on four no's: No to withdrawal from the Golan, no to the return of the West Bank, no to a settlement on Jerusalem, and no to a Palestinian state. These Israeli positions totally violate the principles of the peace process as formulated in Madrid and as agreed upon before the Madrid conference. According to those principles, a settlement must be based on implementing UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and exchanging land for peace.

Faced with this situation, the Arab countries cannot continue to pursue separate policies. The Arabs cannot compete in offering concessions [to Israel], and the Arab countries cannot rush things by taking normalization steps or — as some call them — hasty steps toward Israel. Everybody must realize that there is a new Israeli challenge that cannot be confronted if the Arabs remain divided and fragmented, and if the residue of the Gulf war is not removed.

Lebanon will ask the summit for further unity to confront this new negative Israeli attitude. Although in form this new negative Israeli approach was expressed in soft, diplomatic, and vague language, the content was very clear. The Israeli Government statement essentially proposes methodical and philosophical changes in the peace process, and this we cannot accept.

The second message is this: The Arabs have to take stances toward their enemies, allies, and friends in the world. Those who practice a hostile policy against the Arabs should not continue to benefit from Arab friendship, and friends should not be left without any benefit from this friendship. No country giving full and absolute support to Israel and taking unfair positions toward the Arabs on certain tactical pretexts should continue to benefit from the friendship of the Arabs. It should not have its economic and political interests [in the Arab world] preserved and protected, when others who support the Arab cause remain outside the framework of Arab friendship and cooperation.

Finally, the summit should warn and send a message to the world that Israeli extremism and intransigence will definitely lead to reactions from the Arab people that will embarrass more than one regime and more than one Arab friend of the West. This will change the Arab political map in some way or another. Hence, while adhering to the peace process as acknowledged in Madrid, the Arabs must warn against changing this process. They must send a clear message to the United States before the Clinton-Netanyahu meeting, warning them against changing the bases of peace.

Inter-Arab: Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives for Ministers' Meeting

NC2006193996 Cairo MENA in English 1833 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 20 (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived here this evening along with his accompanying delegation to attend the Arab foreign ministers' meetings, starting tomorrow in preparation for the pan-Arab summit on Saturday [22 June].

Prince Sa'ud, following his arrival, expressed deep satisfaction with the convocation of the summit, expressing hope that the get-together would succeed in retrieving Arab solidarity.

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Prince Sa'ud, in his statements, termed as negative the Israeli Government policy statement delivered by Israeli Premier Binyamin Netanyahu before the Knesset.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Saudi embassy personnel welcomed Prince Sa'ud upon arrival.

Inter-Arab: Syria's al-Shar Arrives for Ministers' Meeting, Makes Statement

JN2006195696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Cairo this evening to participate in the Arab foreign ministers' meeting to begin tomorrow, Friday [21 June]. During the meeting, the foreign ministers will prepare the draft working agenda for the expanded Arab summit to begin on Saturday.

Al-Shar' was received at Cairo Airport by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, ranking Foreign Ministry officials, and Syrian Ambassador in Cairo 'Isa Darwish.

Al-Shar' made statements to the press at the airport. You will now listen to the full recording of these statements.

[Begin al-Shar' recording] First of all, I would like to voice Syria's satisfaction with the convocation of this Arab summit in Cairo. We are confident that this summit, the first for many years, will certainly come out with positive results that will enhance Arab solidarity and express a unified stand on the peace process and the Arabs' stand on this process in light of recent developments. We are also confident that the Arabs will emerge from this summit with a united stand and with a better position, whether with respect to uniting Arab ranks or confronting the forthcoming stage and challenges.

There is no Syrian working paper because we proceed from coordination and consultation among ourselves. We basically depended on what was expressed by the tripartite summit that recently convened in Damascus. Therefore, I do not believe that there will be any problems among the fraternal Arab countries. There are Arab rights that should be safeguarded, occupied lands that should be regained, and an international legitimacy that should be applied in accordance with the land-for peace principle and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. I believe that any future move by the Arab countries should proceed from these bases and not from any other bases. [end recording]

In reply to a question on Syria's role at the summit, al-Shar' said that Syria's role, as is that of all the Arabs, consists of doing all it can to reach a united Arab stand on the need to reach a comprehensive and just peace on the basis of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle. Any other bases for peace will not be acceptable to the Arabs. I believe that the Arab countries will affirm that peace is a strategic option for them provided this peace is a strategic option for the Israeli side too.

In reply to a question on the issue of normalization, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: I believe the Arab leaders will carefully study all the steps that were taken over the five years since the Madrid conference, and in light of the Israeli position, I believe that the Arab leaders will study and reassess whether peace is on a sound course and whether UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principles are being respected.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent, in progress] ... in the summit a good step to reunite the Arabs, or are there obstacles that are difficult to overcome?

[Al-Shar'] In fact there are some obstacles. However, we are optimistic because the pan-Arab interest of the Arab states, with their various trends, requires that this summit should achieve a minimum level of Arab solidarity, reunite the Arabs, and revive joint Arab action through unified positions, so joint Arab action can be placed on the right path in a way that serves the Arab nation's basic interests.

[Correspondent] Will [words indistinct] on the Syrian-Turkish borders be raised at the summit?

[Al-Shar'] Some Arab issues will be raised at the summit. There are only two basic issues topping these issues; namely, the peace process and its developments, and the revival of joint Arab action in the coming phase.

However, other important Arab issues will be raised and they should be reviewed by the Arab leaders. Chief among these Arab issues are the Turkish troop buildup on the Syrian border and the deliberate tension in northern Syria, which is created by the Turkish authorities.

At the same time, we assert that Syria seeks the best relations with Turkey. Syria does not want this tension and escalation. We believe that this tension and escalation are fabricated, and we hope that Turkey will realize that Arab-Turkish relations in general and Syrian-Turkish relations in particular are important for all sides.

I do not believe that the signing of agreements with a state which is occupying Syrian territory is in the interest of Arab-Turkish relations or Turkish-Syrian relations. Moreover, such agreements will turn the region into a hotbed of tension or will create more

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tension in the region. I believe that all sides do not want this to happen.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] direct negotiations. What is your reply [words indistinct]? Is there a real Israeli [words indistinct] for peace?

[Al-Shar'] We frequently expressed our desire for peace that is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle and not on the peace-for-peace principle. We believe that the Israeli side, which demands the resumption of negotiations without preconditions, is the party that sets preconditions by saying: No to a Palestinian state, no to the withdrawal from the Golan, and no to the return of Jerusalem. This simply means the setting of preconditions.

At the same time, we do not set preconditions but we proceed from certain bases which were approved by the international community, which were the substance of the U.S. initiative, and which were the known foundations of the Madrid conference. When any side adheres to these bases it will not set preconditions. When the other side proceeds from the antithesis of these bases, then it is the side that sets preconditions. Thank you. [end recording]

Inter-Arab: Musa Confirms All Arab League Members Except Iraq at Summit

NC2006145096 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that all Arab League member states except Iraq will attend the summit that opens in Cairo the day after tomorrow. He explained that the issue of Iraq is currently deferred.

After receiving the Djibouti president today, Musa said that the 14th summit will be attended by delegations at head of state level. He pointed out that Libya has not confirmed the level of its participation yet. As for Tunisia, it has been confirmed that its representation will be at a high level. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab: Musa Comments on Summit Agenda, Iraq, Netanyahu Statement

NC2006142796 Cairo MENA in English 1245 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Except] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—[passage indistinct] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that he will host a working dinner for participating Arab foreign ministers tonight, during which they will examine the various proposals to the summit.

Asked whether any papers had reached the preparatory committees of the summit, Musa said two main issues were received; namely, the Arab situation and the peace process.

The summit will begin with an opening session that will be followed by a closed session for the heads of delegations, he said. It is up to the heads of delegations to choose thereafter whether to hold a closed session for themselves or an enlarged one attended by the delegations or foreign ministers only, Musa said. All Arab summit sessions will be closed ones, except for the opening and closing session, he said.

Bilateral meetings will take place tomorrow, he added.

Asked whether the issue of Iraq would be tackled at the summit, so that reconciliation may be complete, Musa said discussions on this issue cannot be ruled out, as the summit's negotiations will be open. But the two main issues on the summit's agenda are the Arab situation and the peace process, he added.

Asked whether he would meet with the foreign minister of Sudan, he said that naturally he would.

Commenting on recent tension on the Syrian-Turkish borders, Musa said he did not view it as tension, only an escalation to the current situation. Tension might be an exaggeration, he added.

Musa described the new Israeli prime minister's recent statement that he would not relinquish the Golan nor begin direct negotiations with Syria as impractical.

If Binyamin Netanyahu's statements are true, they represent a setback, he said. As long as the Arab summit would convene, I prefer not to comment on this issue, he said.

Asked whether contacts Musa held within the past two days in preparation of the summit revealed only differences in viewpoints on proposed issues, Musa said "I don't think so". The presence of differences is not a shame that is to be hidden, he said. There are differences, but no clashes, he added. When issues are examined, differences in methodology surface, but when differences are placed on the negotiating table, no problem exists any longer, he added.

Asked whether he was optimistic over the summit, Musa said the mere convening of the summit inspires optimism. [passage omitted]

Asked whether Egypt is satisfied at the level of participation, Musa said: Of course we are satisfied. He expressed the hope that the summit will issue a strong statement.

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Inter-Arab: League Official Says Summit To Discuss Water Controversy

NC2006160796 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Ambassador Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, Arab League assistant secretary general for political affairs, has affirmed that the Israeli-Turkish military alliance poses an alarming threat to the Arab nation.

In remarks to the press today, al-'Allaf called on Turkey to respect the historic ties of friendship linking it to the Arab world to find a solution to the water problem that involves Turkey with both Syria and Iraq, and to do so in a friendly manner that agrees with international charters and historic rights.

He pointed out that the Arab summit due to open in Cairo Saturday [22 June] will discuss the water problem, pointing out that the Arab states will not accept interference in what they view as directly linked to their security.

He added that the leaders will discuss all the perils surrounding the Arab nation, pointing out that the Arab League Council at its last session adopted a resolution endorsed by Syria and Iraq to negotiate a fair division of the waters of the two rivers in a manner that preserves the interests of all three countries.

Al-'Allaf hoped the Turkish Government will take steps that are in line with its relations with the Arabs as well as with the interests of the Turkish people themselves.

Inter-Arab: 'Informed' Sources Discuss Summit, Communique

NC2106093896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—Informed Arab sources in Cairo have stated that consultations have begun among Arab leaders and officials participating in the Arab summit in Cairo tomorrow on the broad lines that will be outlined in the final communique expected to be released after the summit meetings on Sunday [23 June]. Sources close to the summit say the consultations revolve around important and basic items relating to the two main issues that will be proposed at the summit—the peace process and closing the Arab rank. These sources stressed that the initial consultations indicate that the final communique will express a strong position emphasizing support for the peace process in the Middle East, but that the peace process must proceed on the same principles defined at the Madrid conference, which launched the peace process. These sources expressed their belief that the communique will stress adherence to the terms of reference of the peace process as defined by the Madrid conference, particularly the land-for-peace principle as a basis to continue the negotiations on every track between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and Syria and Lebanon.

These sources noted that the new Israeli Government's readiness "to negotiate without preconditions" becomes—in this perspective—meaningless, because the Madrid conference terms of reference cannot be explained as "preconditions." These sources think it unlikely that the Arab leaders meeting in Cairo tomorrow will take notice of this Israeli stance. They said the final communique will not pay attention to it. The informed sources stressed that the Arab leaders will focus most of their efforts and consultations on removing the existing Arab contradictions, primarily the strain in Syrian-Jordanian relations and clearing the Arab air to overcome their differences and resolve these differences gradually.

Inter-Arab: 'Diplomatic Source' Urges Summit To 'Stand Up' to Likud

NC2006190596 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—An Informed Arab diplomatic source in Cairo has stressed that the Arab summit is requested to stand up to the regional domination the extremist Likud bloc seeks to impose on the Middle East after the extremist right took power in Israel under Binyamin Netanyahu's leadership.

The Arab diplomatic source said in a statement this evening that the summit is also requested to work for establishing a peace of justice and dignity on the basis of the land-for-peace principle. He pointed out that the summit is being held under very critical conditions and as the Middle East peace process is about to take a sharp turn.

He affirmed that demands are being made that the summit end the Israeli occupation of all the Arab lands and establish the definite rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation within the framework of the full implementation of the signed agreements and the resolutions of international legitimacy without delay, procrastination, or obstruction.

The source pointed out that the Arab summit has to send Israel a clear message that "while the Arab nation has accepted peace with Israel as a strategy that serves the common interests of all regional people, it can neither yield to a narrow Israeli concept of peace nor relinquish the Arab lands and rights in exchange for that peace."

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The source added that the Arab summit has been awaited for six long years to restore Arab action in the region, give the Arabs the ability to act rather than react, and build renewed inter-Arab relations on solid objective bases.

He added that the Cairo summit will mark a new beginning that seeks agreement on the broad lines of actual cooperation in the political and economic fields, as well as on ways of dealing with world changes and regional challenges and holding on to the basic principles that preserve the higher Arab interests.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 12 Jun

NC2106083896

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 12 June edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper AL-NUR that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Ulema Praise Court Ruling Against Movie
2. Al-Azhar Body Calls For Banning Anti-Islamic Book
3. International Islamic Congress Meets in Cairo in July
4. Some 300 Foreigners Adopt Islam in Cairo in May
5. Writer Urges Raising Material, Educational Level of Preachers
6. Writers View Results of Israeli Elections
7. Al-Azhar Professor Calls For Applying Islam
8. Al-Azhar Professor Discusses Causes of Violence
9. Scholar Rejects Minister's Restrictions on Mosque Preaching
10. Report Discusses Court Ruling on Wearing Veil

ULEMA PRAISE COURT RULING AGAINST MOVIE

In a 450-word report on page 1 under the headline "Egyptian Movie Industry Failed Because It Does Not Express Society and Ignores Islamic Values," Khalid a-Shirbini notes that the Islamic ulema praised the "historic ruling" passed by the 'Abidin Appeal Court upholding the verdict to stop the movie "The Emigrant" and banning its export abroad. The report says the Appeal Court turned down the appeal filed by movie director Yusuf Shahin. The Al-Azhar Ulema Front secretary general, Dr. Yahya Isma'il, is cited saying that the nation met the verdict with satisfaction and joy. He says the verdict is considered a victory for noble Islamic values.

AL-AZHAR BODY CALLS FOR BANNING ANTI-ISLAMIC BOOK

A 200-word report on page 1 by 'Imad Budayr says the Egyptian man in the street was deeply relieved after the implementation of a decision by the Islamic Research Center at al-Azhar. The decision called for withdrawing and banning the latest book by Muhammad Sa'id al-'Ashmawi. The report notes that the book contains flagrant violations of Islamic shari'ah. It says that al-'Ashmawi persistently sought to cast doubt on the precepts of Islamic shari'ah. The report claims that the writer is notorious for his "tendentious" secular writings, which enjoy the support of the "suspicious Western and Zionist circles." These circles say they believe that these anti-Islam writings are the best means to achieve their goals in fighting Islamic ideology.

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC CONGRESS MEETS IN CAIRO IN JULY

A 70-word unattributed report on page 1 says the International Congress of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs will open in Cairo on 24 July. It notes that 250 Islamic thinkers and scholars from all parts of the world will participate in the gathering.

SOME 300 FOREIGNERS ADOPT ISLAM IN CAIRO IN MAY

An unattributed 70-word report on page 1 says that 300 people of various nationalities adopted Islam before the al-Azhar fatwa committee in Cairo in May.

WRITER URGES RAISING MATERIAL, EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF PREACHERS

In an approximately 1,200-word editorial under the headline "O Mosque Preachers, Fulfill Your Duties" on page 1, al-Hamzah Di'bis says the decision by Awqaf Minister Dr. Mahmud Zaqzuq to confine the delivery of the Friday sermon to preachers appointed by the Awqaf Ministry is right. He urges the preachers to rise to the level required to enlighten Muslims about true Islam. Noting that he appealed to the government to raise the material and educational level of preachers, he urges the preachers to perform their duties as best they can for the sake of God and religion and not material benefit. He notes that he proposed to former Awqaf Minister Muhammad Mahjub a university of Islamic education. He argues that when the people are given a sound Islamic education, it will not be easy for "the adventurers, aspirers to power, and criminals" to instill erroneous ideas in the minds of the youth. He says criminals who profess Islam kill people and attribute their actions to Islamic teachings. He says that since the era of former President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir,

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Awqaf property has been run and invested in by the government through the Awqaf Ministry. He says the Awqaf Ministry is paying ulema and preachers very low salaries and denying them their rights, flouting Islam's teachings.

WRITER VIEWS RESULTS Of ISRAELI ELECTIONS

Page 2 features a 1,000 word article by Sabri Hasan headlined "What Now, After the Likud's Win in the Israeli Elections?" He says the result stresses that the trend of the seculars and supporters of peace has waned and the influence of the extremist religious parties is waxing. Arguing that Peres and Netanyahu do not differ, he says that while Peres talked much about peace he offered nothing. Peres obtained numerous Arab concessions and when his turn came to offer something, he linked everything with a popular referendum, knowing full well that the people of the "Zionist" entity reject peace because they view peace as the end of their dreams. He argues that the main reason for Netanyahu's win is that he addressed those who aspire to control the Arab region from the Nile to the Euphrates. Having succeeded in running Arab petro-dollars in U.S. banks, he says, and in controlling the media and movies, the "Zionists" seek to achieve their main goal—"distorting and destroying Islam."

Commenting on the same topic, Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Fadil, in a 600-word boxed column headlined "A message From Israel to the Rulers of Arabs and Muslims" on page 6, says the results of the Israeli elections send a "very serious message" to the rulers of the Arabs and Muslims. Israeli Prime Minister Peres narrowly lost the elections. The result shows that the Israeli people have "the final say." They are "free" people and have freely expressed their views since the establishment of Israel in 1948. Israel, he addresses the Arab leaders, has achieved its great economic, industrial, and technological progress, because of its "political advancement." Official media in all Arab and Islamic countries "ignored this fact" and "persisted in misleading their peoples" by deploring Peres' defeat, he says, adding: They pretend they forget that the Jews are two sides of the same coin and pursue the same policy whether in power or in opposition, because Israel is "a state of institutions, not individuals." If the rulers of the Arabs and Muslims really want progress for their countries, he says, their peoples want one thing—"freedom."

AL-AZHAR PROFESSOR CALLS FOR APPLYING ISLAM

Page 3 features a 2,000-word interview with Dr. Taha Rayyan, professor of comparative jurisprudence at al-Azhar University, by 'Abd-al-'Ati al-Mahdi. Dr. Rayyan answers questions on various political and religious issues. He says that most Islamic countries are ruled by "despotic regimes." Contrasting the situation in the Islamic countries with that of Western nations with plural systems, he says that in the West the parties watch the ruling regimes and pinpoint mistakes. He approves of political plurality in the Islamic countries as long as the parties profess that Islam is the formal religion and is the main source of legislation. Anyone running an ideological, political, or social movement in Egypt must consider that "Islam is the main source of legislation" and not infringe upon shari'ah. He notes that Egypt is not applying Islamic shari'ah in most facets of life and claims that if Islam were applied, we would not see the corruption, adultery, killing, and thefts that are rife in Egypt.

AL-AZHAR PROFESSOR DISCUSSES CAUSES OF VIOLENCE

In a 2,500-word interview with Dr. Muhammad Ra'fat, head of the comparative jurisprudence department at the shari'ah and law college of al-Azhar University, by 'Abd-al-Rasul al-Zarqani on page 4, Dr. Ra'fat says that the "absence of religious consciousness" is behind youths' inclination to violence and extremism. He says that these youths are not at home with Islam's teachings and principles. He stresses that these "extremist" youths have no right to pass judgment, let alone inflict punishment, on others under any religious pretexts. He says individuals have no right to apply Islamic punishments and use firearms on behalf of the State, because this is the jurisdiction of the State. Otherwise, sedition, chaos, and bloodshed would prevail.

SCHOLAR REJECTS MINISTER'S RESTRICTIONS ON MOSQUE PREACHING

A 300-word unattributed report on the same page notes that Dr. Yahya Isma'il, al-Azhar Ulema Front secretary general, is opposed to Awqaf Minister Dr. Hamdi Zaqzuq's draft law forbidding any preacher preaching in a mosque without permission from the Awqaf Ministry. He says this draft law will restrict ulema and prevent them from preaching in mosques. He says he does not agree that the Awqaf Ministry should give a permit to religious scholars to preach in mosques. He maintains that preaching, like prayer, is an Islamic duty. The report also notes a fatwa by Dr. Isma'il on killing civilians in Israel. He says that civilians must not be killed by Muslims in war, but "in Israel there are no civilians, all Israel is under arms and there is no difference between the Israeli military and civilians." In contrast, Dr. Muhammad Ra'fat 'Uthman says that Islam bans the killing of civilians. He says that if Israel

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attacks civilians, then we can attack Israeli civilians. Dr. Ahmad Taha Rayyan says anyone who wants to blow himself up or work as a fedayeen can direct his attacks at "military, not civilian targets," because this would distort the image of Islam and Muslims everywhere.

REPORT DISCUSSES COURT RULING ON WEARING VEIL

A 2,000-word unattributed report on page 5 discusses the court ruling turning down a case filed against Education Minister Kamil Baha'-al-Din, who made a decision banning schoolgirls wearing the veil. The report notes that the court upheld a ruling that schoolgirls can wear garments that cover the head and the body but not the face and the hands, which is in line with Koranic teachings, and there is consensus among Islamic ulema on this issue.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 14 Jun

NC2106095696

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 14 June edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Organizations Protest Press Law 93 of 1995
2. Israel Said Preparing for New Military Action Against Lebanon
3. Israel Seeks To Deploy Forces in Palestinian Self-Rule Areas
4. National Committee Formed To Defend Public Sector
5. Labor Party Issues Statement on Arab Summit, Need for Unity
6. Labor Party Official Asks Summit To Support Syria, Resistance

ORGANIZATIONS PROTEST PRESS LAW 93 OF 1995

A 950-word report on pages 1 and 8, filed by Khalid Yunus, discusses journalists' measures against a controversial press law, Law no. 93 of 1995, seen by almost all Egyptian journalists as restricting press freedom.

The report says "several world organizations involved in press and human rights have sent cables to President Mubarak asking him to keep the freedom of the press and revoke Law no. 93 of 1995 to preserve Egypt's image in the international community and before the world."

The report adds that the human rights legal support center "has expressed deep regret" over the Egyptian Government's clinging to the articles of that "suspicious" press law. The application of this law over one year, the report notes, has resulted in referring over 99 journalists and creative writers to investigation and trial. The report says that among them were 25 chief editors and chairmen of boards of directors of Egyptian newspapers and magazines.

In its statement the center reiterates its solidarity with the Journalists Association and pressmen in adopting "every means of public, peaceful struggle" approved by international human rights documents to prompt the Egyptian authorities to cancel the law.

ISRAEL SAID PREPARING FOR NEW MILITARY ACTION AGAINST LEBANON

An approximately 500-word report on pages 1 and 8 by Mahmud Bakri says: "Consultations are continuing in the Zionist state to launch a new military aggression against Lebanon on the pretext of revenge for the victims of Lebanese Hizballah's recent jihad operations that killed or wounded over 13 Israeli soldiers."

The report adds: "There are intense consultations in Israel between former Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who has not yet completed the formation of his extremist government. These consultations are aimed at coordinating the two sides' measures to begin a large-scale Israeli aggression, which Netanyahu will continue when he forms his government."

As preparations continue to hold the Cairo summit, the report says Israel has accused Egypt and Syria of drawing up a military plan of cooperation and that they will soon sign a military accord to counter the Turkish-Israeli military agreement. Israel regards this Egyptian-Syrian military accord as a direct hostile line against Israel and its policy in the region, the report adds.

The report says Israel has conveyed this information to the United States and asked that the issue be discussed with the Egyptian Government. It adds that "indeed" the U.S. assistant chief of staff arrived in Cairo recently and his visit involved the discussion of "news of an alleged Egyptian-Syrian military agreement." During the talks, the report goes on, Egypt "categorically denied these reports and asked the U.S. military official that the United States pressure Israel and Turkey to revoke their military agreement, which threatens the neighboring countries' security."

The report says: "As for ongoing contacts to convene an Arab summit in Cairo, AL-SHA'B has learned that Moroccan King Hassan II will not attend the summit, protesting that he was ignored during the Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi consultations before the decision to call

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the summit. In contacts with the Egyptian leadership, he said that not inviting him to the tripartite summit or failing to coordinate with him—through a visit to Morocco President Mubarak should have made after the Damascus summit before announcing the invitation to the summit—has harmed him as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee and an advocate of Arab unity." Morocco will be represented at the summit by a senior government delegation, the report says.

ISRAEL SEEKS TO DEPLOY FORCES IN PALESTINIAN SELF-RULE AREAS

A 130-word front-page report by Rabi' Shahin says: "Diplomatic sources have revealed that the Israeli Government, led by Zionist Binyamin Netanyahu, is seeking to deploy security forces in the Palestinian self-rule areas, namely, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip." The report adds that the Israeli Government claims it has the right to use security forces against "what it terms terrorism anywhere."

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FORMED TO DEFEND PUBLIC SECTOR

An unattributed report on pages 1 and 8 says: "Representatives of political parties and forces, trade union organizations, and various groups have announced the formation of a national committee to defend the public sector, protect Egypt's wealth, and confront the policy of privatization and sale of companies."

LABOR PARTY ISSUES STATEMENT ON ARAB SUMMIT, NEED FOR UNITY

An approximately 600-word unattributed report on pages 1 and 8 says the Labor Party's political and executive bureaus held a joint meeting and issued a statement on the Arab summit.

The statement, the text of which is given, says the Labor Party welcomes the summit, "stressing that it can be an actual beginning to achieving Arab solidarity in its comprehensive sense." The party "emphasizes the need for the attendance of all the Arab countries."

The statement says: "This is why we call on the brothers to give precedence to the Arab nation's common interest over differences with fraternal Iraq in following Egypt's example in transcending its differences with fraternal Sudan. We also insist that the call for the summit come within the framework of the Arab League, home of the Arabs, to assert its role in achieving Arab solidarity and protecting pan-Arab security."

The statement adds: "The Labor Party emphasizes the need to check current U.S. attempts to block the summit from passing resolutions realizing the nation's interests under the pretext of giving an opportunity to the Israeli prime minister-elect and not closing doors on him."

The statement says the summit is being held amid regional events that require Arab leaders to emerge with resolutions "commensurate with the gravity of these events." Among these, the statement cites the signing of the U.S.-Israeli strategic accord, "which renders the Arabs' confrontation of Israel a direct confrontation with the United States." It also cites the Turkish-Israeli agreement, "which aims to cordon off the Arab nation's northern wing, to blockade Syria and Lebanon militarily both from north and south, exhaust and steal Arab water, and threaten Iraq and neighboring Iran."

The statement says that the Labor Party has often submitted its "comprehensive concept" to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, "stressing the Arab nation's ideological and historical principles concerning Palestine."

Referring to these principles, the statement says: "The Zionist Jews are the staunchest enemies of the believers. Any agreements or settlements with them will not be viable unless the Arab and Islamic nations possess means of power that would frighten these enemies and prevent them from violating such agreements."

It adds that any solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that ignores "Jerusalem's Arabism, the Palestinian people's right to return to their land, and the need to clear the region of weapons of mass destruction is an unfair solution." Such a solution, the statement notes, does not realize the interests of the nation's Muslims and Christians and is not based on UN resolutions.

"Confronting Zionist ambitions and U.S. plans cannot be done without collective Arab solidarity based on a common agreement on issues concerning the nation's strategic security."

LABOR PARTY OFFICIAL ASKS SUMMIT TO SUPPORT SYRIA, RESISTANCE

As usual, AL-SHA'B's page 5 is devoted to Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn's article. In this article Husayn reviews the Arab-Israeli conflict and discusses Israel's military capabilities and conflicting views among various sectors of Israeli society.

Turning to the Arab summit, he says: "I heard Western diplomats say that the United States will not be annoyed or harmed by the summit meeting if it merely involves an exchange of views harming or threatening no one. My estimation is that this was not true, because the situation with Arab rulers in years past reached a point of dispersal and loss and subjugation to the orders of the U.S.-Zionist alliance. At this point any collective gathering was prohibited or deemed unachievable."

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He adds: "So their meeting now is regarded as a measure annoying the hostile alliance and heralding further meetings. We have been at zero level. Any rise above it is an indication of a shift in a different direction. If the United States does not show explicit opposition to the summit meeting, this is just it bending with the wind."

Husayn goes on: "Yet we are not content with the summit meeting, because Arab and Islamic peoples demand further steps. Our basic demand is that the Cairo summit be a continuation of previous attempts to rebel."

He says that supporting the "axis of hawks"—Syria, Lebanon, and Iran—comes to the fore. He adds that the Iranian foreign minister declared in Damascus that his country is in the same trench with Syria and Hizballah and notes that the summit should be able to adopt a stand in support of those who are in this trench and backing the armed resistance to occupation. The summit should "practically and unequivocally" refuse the continuation of the blockade against "other hawks—Iraq, Libya, and Sudan," he adds.

He says there should be agreement on holding summit meetings on regular bases and that such meetings should include everyone. "The crime of some people excluding Iraq this time must not be repeated," he notes.

He goes on: "What the Arab peoples are demanding is not much and can be implemented. But surely Israel's new leaders will not remain silent. They will be supported by the United States if they use armed muscle to object."

He says: "We do not imagine that our battle is easy and free of blood. Indeed it is a ferocious war and our plan in this connection is based on our being people who do not fear death and whose patience in the face of sacrifice and affliction lasts longer. If 1,000 of them are killed and 100,000 of us killed, we will endure and they will collapse."

He addresses the "mujahidin youths," telling them to forge ahead and urges: Let "our peoples" be patient. He says: "If some rulers cannot stand on our side we ask them at least not to be with the enemies against us."

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: Authority 'Ready To Negotiate' With Netanyahu

JN2006121296 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', head of the Legislative Council, said the National Authority [NA] is ready to negotiate with the new Israeli Government. He indicated the Palestinian side's rejection of this government's guidelines. In statements to the newspaper AL-BILAD issued today, Quray' added that the NA's condition for negotiations with the Netanyahu government is its commitment to the agreements signed with the Palestinians.

Palestinian Affairs: AFP Details Hamas' Conditions for Halting Attacks

NC2006154396 Paris AFP in English 1446 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, June 20 (AFP) — The Islamic movement Hamas issued a ceasefire offer Thursday [20 June] to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, offering to suspend attacks if his new right-wing government agrees to a long list of demands, including the release of Palestinian prisoners.

In what the group described as a "golden opportunity" for Netanyahu, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) said in a statement faxed to news organizations that it was willing to order a "global" freeze in its military activities if its conditions were met.

The movement, which was responsible for most suicide bombings in Israel but has not carried out any known attacks since early March, centered its demands on a halt to all "offensive" Israeli actions against Palestinians and on the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Taking up the terms of similar truce offers issued earlier this year, the statement insisted on an "end to Zionist terrorism in all its forms against Hamas and the al-Qassam Brigades," the movement's military wing.

It also called for Israel to lift the military closure imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip following a spate of suicide bombings by Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad group in February and March which killed 58 people.

The statement signed by the al-Qassam Brigades, and a separate communique addressed to the self-rule Palestinian Authority led by Yasir 'Arafat, demanded that all militants arrested since those attacks be freed.

Israel and the Palestinian Authority have arrested several hundred suspected members of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad since the bombings.

Hamas also demanded the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the founder and spiritual leader of the fundamentalist movement who has been serving a life sentence in Israeli prisons since 1989.

"This is a golden opportunity waving on the visible horizon," the statement said.

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"Will Israel take this opportunity to plant the seeds of security and stability and avoid the suffering, fear and terror for its people, the scenes of bodies and bullets and explosions, or will it be stupid and plunge the entire region into the flames of old war and destructive conflict," it asked.

"The al-Qassam brigades maintain the absolute right to make a suitable response ... to any Israeli violation of the above conditions," it said.

The suicide bombings in February and March were widely seen as having ensured Netanyahu's election victory last month over incumbent prime minister Shim'on Peres.

Netanyahu ran for office promising to give Israelis' security top priority while pursuing efforts to reach a permanent peace settlement with the Palestinians.

Since his election, Netanyahu has insisted on a continued crackdown on armed militants by 'Arafat as the key condition to pursuing the peace process.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Spokesman Explains Conditions for Talks With PA

NC2006184496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Jun 96

[Telephone interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, by correspondent Mahdi Hasan; place and date not given; from the "News and Reports" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] Mr.Ibrahim Ghawshah, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has expressed its readiness to negotiate with the Palestinian Authority [PA], on the condition that Islamist detainees be released from Palestinian prisons. Is this part of Hamas' initiative to unite Palestinian ranks now that the Palestinian people are facing serious challenges? Or has the movement found that the time is now right for the other side to respond?

[Ghawshah] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With Netanyahu's victory as head of the Jewish government, the region is approaching a new stage. The broad lines of Netanyahu's policy are now known to everybody. There is a need to unite the Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic ranks. On this basis, Hamas, through its official spokesman, explained it is ready to resume the dialogue with the PA — and we are talking about the Cairo dialogue which opened in December 1995 — provided that the PA take certain measures to help the dialogue succeed. These measures include releasing some 1,000 detainees in PA jails and bringing those who tortured and oppressed the detainees to trial. there can be no dialogue if those involved in torture are not punished. PA oppression against most Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza must also stop. If the PA is concerned about national unity and wants unified ranks, it has to take these measures before a Hamas delegation and a PA delegation ever meet again, either in Cairo, Khartoum, Amman, or anywhere else. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: PSS To Prevent Hamas Terror in Next 100 Days

TA2106103596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli official met yesterday with Muhammad Dahlan, head of the Palestinian Security Service [PSS] in Gaza, who told him the PSS would prevent Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror during the first 100 days of grace of the current government. If no change appears in the Israeli policy on the Palestinian issue after that time, he would turn in the keys, as Dahlan put it. This is reported by our political correspondent.

According to Dahlan, the PSS has been losing the support of the street due to the Israeli Government's policy, and consequently he will not be able to fight radical Islamic terror effectively.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Abd-Rabbuh Says Israel 'Conspiring' Against PA

JN2006122196 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Jun 96 p 14

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture and information at the Palestinian Authority [PA], said that "the new Israeli Government is conspiring against the existence of the PA and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination." He called on the next Arab summit to halt negotiations and normalization with Israel until it declares that it will respect the signed agreements.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y by telephone from Ramallah in Palestine, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo summit on 22 June will be led by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and will comprise PLO Executive Committee members Faruq Qaddumi and Mahmud 'Abbas, and PA Ministers Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat.

'Abd-Rabbuh said there must be a unified Arab stand at the summit. He said: "We are experiencing the most critical circumstances. The Arab message to the world

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must be very clear. There is a crisis and the world must feel it." [passage omitted]

The Palestinian information minister said: "We stress the need to halt negotiations with the Israeli Government until it declares to respect its obligations and the concluded agreements." [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Ashrawi Comments on Netanyahu Statement, Program

JN2006113396 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Jun 96

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, higher education minister at the Palestinian Authority, by Fathi al-Barqawi, from "A New Day" program; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Barqawi] Dr. 'Ashrawi, good morning.

['Ashrawi] Good morning Fathi and welcome back.

[Al-Barqawi] Thank you. Dr. 'Ashrawi, it seems Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, and brother 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah are pessimistic about the advent of an Israeli Government under Bibi Netanyahu. So are you, even though four years ago in Tunis I heard you say there is no pessimism or optimism in politics.

['Ashrawi] Yes. I reject emotions in politics.

[Al-Barqawi] Without any emotions, let us stick to the facts that have existed for several days.

['Ashrawi] We should realistically view these facts through accurate and responsible analysis. I heard the U.S. side say we should take it easy and wait to see what happens. There is nothing called wait and see in politics. Reality cannot wait and time does not stop. There are clear facts and evidence regarding what is coming our way. We are facing a clearly right-wing, religious, and extremist government. We are also facing pa political program, the outlines of which are clear. From the beginning, we should act with responsible speed rather than act hastily in order to draw up Palestinian plans to confront all the possibilities and to prevent the implementation of this political program. It is clear that this program targets Palestinian rights and territories as well as the entire peace process.

As I mentioned before, it is a fundamentalist statement and a move backward. It is not in line with modern statements and the modern global reality. On the contrary, this statement is a regression. It adopts an absolute and closed ideology in dealing with an active political reality and with issues and principles agreed upon on the international level

[Al-Barqawi] You were the head of the Legislative Council's political committee. You have abandoned this post and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi became the head of this committee. While preparing for this dialogue yesterday, you said the situation in Israel was fully analyzed. Everyone is calling for patience. Patience is useful even though the trends of Netanyahu's government are clear. However, Dr. 'Ashrawi, being patient does not necessarily mean thinking about the various possibilities.

['Ashrawi] Yes, planning and preparation...[pauses] First of all, I would like to congratulate Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi for becoming the head of the committee.

[Al-Barqawi] The same congratulations come from me too.

['Ashrawi] I would also like to congratulate Ahmad al-Dik for becoming the committee's rapporteur and Dalal Salamah for becoming a member of the committee. As you know, the system stipulates that no political figure in the executive body can head a committee within the Legislative Council. This committee is really working hard and responsibly to study all issues. It is raising possibilities and options in a speedy rather than hasty manner as I mentioned; and it is doing this with a sense of responsibility.

We thoroughly examined the new Israeli Government and the various trends within this government. It is not a homogeneous government. It is not easy to simply say it is a right-wing and religious government. There are various trends within it. We also examined the Israeli opposition inside this government and how to approach it and work with it to strengthen the trend and steps in support of real peace and Palestinian rights. We also discussed this government's political program and its most serious aspects. Moreover, we discussed how to prepare a plan and proposals to confront this program and to reinforce Palestinian gains. We also discussed how to prevent additional harm because I believe we are approaching a state of confrontation. This is given the fact that there are practical steps on the ground regarding the issue of settlement building and the onslaught against Jerusalem and in terms of testing the completion of the interim stage, especially the Hebron issue and the male and female prisoners.

[Al-Barqawi] Dr. 'Ashrawi. You spoke about possibilities and options and about a stage of confrontation. In light of current circumstances, is it possible to rule out the return of violence and tension — the return of the intifadah?

['Ashrawi] Tension and violence do not come from a vacuum. They come as a result of Israeli steps, violations, and provocations. This has always been the

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case. Israel is the one under the real test, not the Palestinian people. The Palestinians are lively people; they have a strong willpower. They will not yield or accept the continuation of violations or escalations, especially regarding settlement building and Jerusalem. The more Israel increases its provocative steps, the more it will provoke Palestinian reactions. However, we are responsibly talking about a media, political, and field plan to strengthen the Palestinian stand and activate the Palestinian willpower on all levels to confront the Israeli plans. I believe that as long as the causes of conflict, confrontation, friction, and violence exist, these matters will continue. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Initiative to Israeli Government

TA2006132296 Jerusalem JMCC PRESS SERVICE in English 1125 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Brigades issued a statement today that was distributed in Jerusalem today. The statement is an initiative to the new Israeli government through the mediation of the PA [Palestinian Authority] to freeze the military work, in general, against Israel. Al-Qassam listed the following 'central' conditions:

1. End of Zionist terrorism in all its forms against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and al-Qassam Brigades.

2. End of all offensives and attacks, official or public, against Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories.

3. Release of all Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] prisoners from Israeli prisons and detention camps, particularly the Intifadah Shaykh Ahmad Yasin.

4. End forms of collective punishment against the Palestinian people including the security closure and military siege around the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

5. Al-Qassam Brigades maintain the absolute right for the suitable response, at the suitable time according to its special evalutation, on any crime conducted by the Israeli military or the settlers against our people; or any Israeli violation to the above four conditions.

6. As for the PA personnel: End all security policies taken against the Islamic Movement and the release of detainees from PA prisons.

In order to continue the circle of this serious project proposed by al-Qassam Brigades, we affirm the following:

1. Emphasize the important role of the PA as a mediator between Hamas and the Israeli government.

2. Our total commitment to the articles of the aforementioned proposal.

3. The necessity of the PA to open channels in front of the Islamic Movement to actively and powerfully participate in the Palestinian political life.

4. We will not place any obstacle in the path of reaching a suitable period for the proposed truce.

5. It should be known to all that al-Qassam Brigades will not stop its military work process from one side or without any exchange.

6. The purpose of our proposing this initiative is mainly to unite the national line in the face of challenges.

7. We call on our political leadership in Hamas to follow up on all developments in the PA.

8. We call upon the Israeli government to calm down and refrain from speedy reactions. Also, to study this initiative with an open eye and heart since it serves the interests of both sides.

Palestinian Affairs: Minister 'Abd-Rabbuh on New Israeli Government

JN2006105596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Jun 96

[Telephone interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture and information at the Palestinian Authority, by Fathi al-Barqawi, from "A New Day" program; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Barqawi] Good morning, Yasir 'Abd- Rabbuh.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Good morning.

[Al-Barqawi] About six years after the last Arab summit, a new one will be held soon. Is there something urgent to be discussed?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I believe a summit should have been held much earlier.

[Al-Barqawi] It is a belated and incomplete summit. We would rather not talk about this now to avoid any sensitivities. What does this summit, which will be held six years after the last one and following the arrival of an extremist right-wing government in Israel, mean to the Palestinians?

['Abd-Rabbuh] In fact, since the end of the Gulf war, we have been calling for Arab reconciliation and new bases for Arab reconciliation and solidarity. However, what happened has happened. A development has taken place. In our view, this development affects the entire region and affects even the internal situation in every

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country of the region. I mean by that the arrival of an extremist government in Israel with a program that calls for expansion and settlement, denies the most basic rights of the Palestinian people, rejects the land-for-peace principle, and, significantly, rejects the previous agreements that were signed. This has been proven by Netanyahu's declaration that the Israeli occupation army has the right to enter all areas, including the areas under the supervision of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. This is clear from his opening statement on 18 June. At any rate, the issue now affects the internal situation of every country in the region. Some countries of the region were following the so-called path of peace and normalization. How can this path be followed at a time when there is an Israeli government with a program that has nothing to do with the peace process that was started? This program completely disregards this process and tries to reverse matters. I believe the Arab summit in this regard is extremely necessary. I believe all Arab countries will agree on two basic points. The first is to specify the bases of peace, represented by full withdrawal, the land-for-peace principle, and adherence to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The second point is that there must not be any progress in normalization or peace relations before peace itself is achieved. This has always been our policy. Even before the arrival of this new government, we could not understand how steps toward normalization and open relations could be taken before actual peace in the region is achieved. The main elements of peace are our Palestinian people's rights to self-determination, repatriation, and full withdrawal from our territories and from the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories.

[Al-Barqawi] The Arabs are going to Cairo and it seems that there are apparent winds of differences. An Arab official — we prefer not to name him now — says circumstances are ripe for continuing the peace process in the Middle East to arrive at a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Good! We are ready to proceed with the process, but on the condition that the other side shows a similar readiness. As the saying goes: You need two people for a dance. What we are witnessing today is a statement by the Netanyahu government saying that Jerusalem and Hebron are areas for expanding Israeli settlement activity, that there will be no withdrawal from the West Bank, that there will be no Palestinian or even non-Palestinian sovereignty over the West Bank, that the Palestinian people's right to self- determination is completely denied, and that there will be no withdrawal from the Golan. Yet, Netanyahu says that they are ready for negotiations without preconditions. If there are no preconditions, then what do preconditions mean? I am surprised that some people, though a minority, show signs of optimism. This optimism should be supported by evidence. Regrettably, such evidence is unavailable. What is evidently available to us is that they want to undermine the peace process which started several years ago. The peace process is not a perfect one and is full of shortcomings. It is not based on solid foundations. Otherwise, it would not have undergone the current shocks. Despite these shortcomings in the peace process, they [new Israeli government] are against it and against all that has been achieved. They want to maintain occupation and control. Regarding the Palestinian people, they are offering nothing more than distribution of responsibilities.

[Al-Barqawi] Dare Gold, Netanyahu's political adviser, said the Israeli Government intends to hold negotiations with the Palestinians on the final status settlement and that the situation....

['Abd-Rabbuh, interrupting] This is nonsense. By the way, we must note that they ignore the previous agreements. Most importantly, they must abide by and begin implementing the previous agreements. They ignore the previous agreements, as if they want to cancel them and not abide by them. They want us to enter the final status negotiations without terms of reference and without a link between these negotiations and the previous agreements. They want to defer all the interim phase issues, including Hebron, the safe corridor, completion of redeployment in the West Bank, and other issues related to the final status negotiations. They, therefore, want to maintain the current situation and await the outcome of negotiations which do not have any terms of reference or bases. Such negotiations could take several years, perhaps decades. This is the same theory that was followed by Yitzhaq Shamir. After his failure in the elections in the past, Shamir said that he planned to continue negotiations for 10 years, during which demographic and geographic changes would leave nothing for the Palestinians to negotiate. We must be aware of this and be ready for all possibilities and repercussions, including the possibility of a confrontation and explosion. This government has no plan, but for confrontation. To realize this, it is enough to hear the Israeli prime minister saying that he wants more lands confiscated, more settlement expansion, and to interfere in the PA areas whenever he wants under the pretext of security. He also says he rejects withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

[Al-Barqawi] Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh you talked about possibilities and repercussions. At the Baghdad 1990 summit, you were a member of the Palestinian delegation. Then, the United States sent a threatening message to

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the Arab countries. As you remember, Iraq published the message one day before the summit. Are the winds carrying a U.S. message of warning or advice?

['Abd-Rabbuh] For the past two weeks, immediately after the Israeli elections, the Americans have been reiterating that we, the Arabs, should not prejudge Netanyahu and must wait until he forms his government and declares his program. So we did. The results have appeared. I believe they are now trying to look for positive elements in Netanyahu's stand. I believe the official U.S. statements say that the positive element in Netanyahu's policy statement is that he said he is ready for dialogue with some Arab leaders without precondition.

[Al-Barqawi] He did not mention Palestine in this regard?

['Abd-Rabbuh] No. He said they are ready for negotiations with the Palestinian side and that these negotiations must be linked to the Palestinian side's commitment to its pledges. But as for their commitment to their pledges, this is out of the question.

[Al-Barqawi] So is this a U.S. message in some way?

['Abd-Rabbuh] No, I do not believe so. The U.S. stand, so far, is void of coherence or clarity. The U.S. Administration is really embarrassed, especially prior to the U.S. elections which will be held in a few months. They want to show accord with Israeli policy. They want to show there are still positive elements in this policy to avoid any negative effects it might have on the U.S. elections. I believe U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's upcoming tour of the region is an attempt to find some points on which they can rely to show that the peace process still has some elements of life.

[Al-Barqawi] Let us wait and see. Thank you.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Thank you.

Palestinian Affairs: Mahmud 'Abbas Views Israeli Government Guidelines

TA2006185896 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Jun 96 pp 1, 23

[Report by 'Imad al-Ifranji]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza, Jericho, WAFA — The official announcement of the program of new Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government has aroused an angry reaction in Palestinian circles.

Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee, said that these guidelines contradict the telephone conversation which Netanyahu's adviser held with him and in which he affirmed the new government's commitment to the peace process. Abu-Mazin reaffirmed the Palestinian people's and leadership's commitment to the peace process and called on Israel to adhere to all the agreements signed with the PLO.

He added: We have been familiar with the positions of the Likud Party and its allies for a long time. Those positions are characterized by inflexibility, intransigence, and even vindictiveness. Hence, we were not surprised when we heard the guidelines of the Likud's political program. Those guidelines contain many no's that contradict the spirit of the peace process and the bases of peace that we signed with the Israeli Government.

Abu-Mazin explained that the agreements were signed with the Israeli Government. They are guaranteed by the world, specifically by the U.S. and Russian cosponsors. Moreover, we did not sign them with the Labor Party but with the Israeli Government, which represents the Israeli people. He stressed the need for the current, or any other Israeli Government, to honor the previous government's commitments.

He called on the Israeli Government to implement what has been agreed upon with regard to the interim stage, and to place everything relating to this stage on the negotiating table without prejudice.

As for settlement activity, Abu-Mazin said that this activity is a violation of the signed agreements. He said that the same situation applies to Jerusalem. If this approach, "that is refusing to negotiate about these two issues" is pursued, we shall reject it, but we are awaiting the formation of the new Israeli Government. We shall make our judgment when the outlines of this government's policy become clear.

On his contact with Netanyahu's adviser, Abu-Mazin said: I received two phone calls in which Dr. Dore Gold, Netanyahu's adviser, affirmed their commitment to the peace process. He said that they will form their negotiating delegation when the government is formed.

Abu-Mazin said that there are two parts in the interim stage talks that have not been finalized yet. The first part pertains to the interim stage issues, such as Hebron, the safe passage, the female prisoners, economic issues, and so forth. All these issues have been agreed on and are the result of the Taba and Cairo agreements. All of them have been left pending and need to be implemented by the Israeli side. As for the second part, this is the issue of the displaced, which is one of the interim stage issues, and it is essential to achieve progress in this regard.

Abu-Mazin called for the resumption of the final stage talks which began in Taba on 5 May. He said: We are awaiting the formation of the new Israeli Government

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in order to resume the final stage talks, which includes seven basic issues that will be placed on the negotiating table.

He noted that there are two Palestinian committees for negotiations: The Higher Negotiations Committee, headed by President 'Arafat, which includes responsible leaders from the PLO Executive Committee, the National Authority, and other organs. They directly supervise the proceedings periodically. The second committee is the Follow Up Negotiations Committee, which comprises 15-16 persons, eight of whom are in charge of specific files which they study. Then, they form the teams from among themselves, or from among technicians, experts, or others to follow up on the negotiations.

Abu-Mazin stressed: We are now passing through a difficult, delicate, and dangerous stage. This makes it incumbent upon us to be cohesive in order to confront the future dangers, especially in the final stage talks which require a national consensus. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Masri Urges Renewing Economic Accords With Israel

TA2106051596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahir al-Masri, the Palestinian Authority's [PA] official in charge of economy and trade, has called for the reopening of the PA-Israel economic agreements signed in Paris. According to him, these agreements discriminate against the Palestinians and bar their freedom of action and coordination with their Arab brethren. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that in al-Masri's opinion the strategic economic goal of the Palestinians should be aimed at the Arab world rather than at Israel.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 21 June adds: "Yasir 'Arafat's economic adviser says he does not expect the Netanyahu government to change Israel's policy toward the PA. Speaking in Paris, Gabriel Barnun said that the Palestinian state is a reality, and although Netanyahu can choose not to recognize it, he will have to accept its existence."]

Palestinian Affairs: Summit Urged To Suspend 'Normalization' With Israel

JN2006194496 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Hasan Tahbub, awqaf and Islamic affairs minister, urged the Arab summit to suspend the process of normalization with Israel and link this process to progress in the negotiations on occupied Jerusalem. Tahbub said the question of Palestine, the crux of the Middle East conflict, cannot be resolved without settling the issue of Jerusalem. He noted that Jerusalem is part of the creed of Arabs, both Muslims and Christians, and cannot be relinquished.

He said he hoped the summit would examine the situation of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, given the great importance of the mosque to Muslims. He said that the Israeli falsification and current actions around the holy sites will not change the nature, facts, or history of these sites.

Palestinian Affairs: Iraq Absence From Summit Irks Qaddumi

MM2006110596 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Jun 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Qaddumi Objects to Iraq's Exclusion From Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf) issued a statement yesterday saying that "Iraq's absence from the Arab summit conference will cause a vacuum in Arab solidarity." Abu-al-Lutf added in his statement, of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received a copy, that Iraq's nonparticipation in the summit "consolidates the blockade and isolation imposed on an Arab state guarding the Arab nation's eastern gate."

Abu-al-Lutf stressed that "the Arabs will take the necessary steps at the summit to work to break the blockade imposed on this fraternal country, in order to heal the Arab wound and return Arab life to normal within the framework of joint Arab action."

Meanwhile, Shaykh Salih 'Abd-al-'Al, secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Front, has said that the call for holding the summit comes "in sensitive circumstances that put our Arab nation's present existence at a crossroads." In a statement, of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has obtained a copy, he said that the program of Binyamin Netanyahu's government is "a blatant provocation to Arab leaders and presidents. It represents a clear alteration of the political course in the region, and it further tightens the noose around the Palestinian people."

He said that "all this necessitates an Arab stand," including "mobilizing Arab energies, closing Arab ranks, and rising to the level of pan-Arab interests," namely through "an atmosphere of reconciliation that accommodates everyone." Shaykh Salih 'Abd-al- 'Al denounced Iraq's exclusion, saying that "it is not consistent with the awareness of the danger surrounding our nation." He urged support for the Palestinian people, Syria, Yemen, and Sudan.

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Palestinian Affairs: PLC Statement Supports 'Arafat's Efforts

JN2006150796 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Legislative Council [PLC], which is meeting in Ramallah, issued a statement today.

The statement stressed the PLC's support for President Yasir 'Arafat in his efforts to achieve the legitimate rights and national demands of the Palestinian people and their National Authority as well as to present the Palestinian viewpoint, vision, and plans to the Arab summit in Cairo on Saturday. The PLC statement also urged the Arab leaders to make decisions and take steps that will protect the Palestinian rights by adopting a unified Arab position in order to achieve the higher pan-Arab interest.

The PLC appreciated Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's intensive efforts to convene an Arab summit to revive Arab solidarity vis-a-vis challenges. It also saluted the tripartite summits held in Cairo and in the Jordanian town of al-'Aqabah, which were attended by President Yasir 'Arafat, King Husayn of Jordan, and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The PLC also saluted the tripartite summit held in Damascus and attended by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and their talks which called for an expanded Arab summit.

The PLC continues its sessions in the presence of 70 deputies to discuss the reports and recommendations of its 11 committees, which concluded meetings yesterday, as well as the drafts of some bills. Our political commentator stressed the need for the PLC to conclude its deliberations on the policy statement and give confidence to the new government, so it can carry out its mission and assume its political and administrative responsibilities.

Palestinian Affairs: PLC Committee Discusses Situation in Jerusalem

JN2006192496 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jun 96

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-Rabbuh in Jerusalem]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jerusalem Committee emanating from the [Palestinian] Legislative Council [PLC] held a meeting on the sidelines of the ninth session of the PLC in the city of Ramallah. Hatim 'Abd-al-Qadir, the committee's rapporteur, said the committee listened in a secret session to a report presented by Faysal al-Husayni, member of the PLO Executive Committee and official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the National Authority. The report tackled the health, social, and population aspects of the situation in Jerusalem. The report also discussed ways to face the Israeli plan to Judaize Jerusalem, and promote the steadfastness of people in the city.

The committee members raised questions on fundamental issues pertaining to Jerusalem. The committee discussed al-Husayni's report and explanations and adopted some recommendations to be later referred to the PLC for endorsement. Chief among these recommendations is working out an emergency plan on Jerusalem that will be secretly debated in the PLC's 10th session scheduled to be held in Gaza next week. The PLC will also listen to a report by Hatim 'Abd-al-Qadir on the secret Jewish plan to vacate the holy city of its Palestinian citizens. The report will also tackle the most important recommendations to face this plan.

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Egypt

Egypt: Official Calls Israeli Government Program 'Provocative'

NC2006183096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1719 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Ambassador Fathi al-Shadhili, assistant foreign minister for European affairs, has commented on the new Israeli Government's statement in the Knesset. He said that the Israeli Government's program raises many questions about the seriousness of those who prepared this program, because it excludes most of the remaining topics—which are huge stumbling blocks hampering completion of the peace process—from the negotiating process. He says that the Israeli program prevents the results in advance. When it says that the Golan will remain under Israeli sovereignty, that there will be no Palestinian state, and describes the building of settlements in the occupied Arab territory as a patriotic act that must be encouraged, such talk, al-Shadhili said, is "provocative" language that does not befit a responsible government.

Al-Shadhili said that he is certain that the Israeli people themselves lean more toward peace and would rather participate with all peace-loving parties in searching for foundations that will guarantee a permanent and fair peace in the region. He said that the vast majority of the Israeli people view these formulas in the same way as any peace-loving person. He noted that the new Israeli Government's program regarding the cause of peace in the Middle East is provocative and will not lead to an atmosphere conducive to continuing the peace process.

Egypt: Press Comments on Netanyahu's Policy, Summit

NC2006082096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—The editorials of the Cairo newspapers today unanimously agree that the expanded Arab summit, which will be held in Cairo on Saturday, 22 June, comes at a historic time and moment that all future generations will bear witness to.

AL-AHRAM says Arab leaders will set before their eyes during the Arab summit the crucial stage the Middle East peace process is going through and the problems before it, stemming from the policies of the new Israeli Government, which is denying all the pledges the previous government made, including the land-for-peace principle.

The newspaper says in its editorial under the headline "The Challenges Before the Arab Summit," that with respect to this dangerous stance, the Arab leaders will discuss the policies and measures they have to take to rescue the peace process and confirms that the Arab nation could do something, that its role is not restricted to mere reaction.

AL-AHRAM says Arab leaders have a crucial responsibility before them, particularly since the new government in Israel and the speech Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu delivered before the new Knesset clearly reflect the same aggressive tone that prevailed during the Likud Party's election campaign.

AL-AHRAM says that the most important challenges facing the Arab leaders during the Arab summit are the unity of Arab ranks and the knowledge that the future of the Arab nation might be shaken if they do not hasten to reform their house from inside, so they will be able to take a united stance before Israel's belligerence and fanaticism.

The newspaper confirms the need for the Arabs to overcome all their differences and stresses that the Arabs' moral, political, and economic power is derived from inside; it does not come from outside under a false label or wrong allegation.

AL-AHRAM says that the Arabs who will meet during the Cairo summit have a historic responsibility before them, which is to reorganize the Arab house from inside and arrange the influential Arab cards in order to clarify the Arab stance regarding the new Israeli Government's program, which does not honor the peace process and the agreements reached.

The paper clarifies that the Arab stance is primarily based on the Arabs' commitment to peace as a strategic option, and that the Israeli Government's retraction from the agreed upon bases for a peaceful settlement liberates the Arabs from this commitment and gives them the right, nay even imposes on them the duty, to reassess their accounts and stop all forms of breakdown in the joint Arab action, in order to restore the settlement march on its correct track and prepare for all possible developments that could take place in the arena.

AL-AHRAM affirms that the statements Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu made before the Israeli Knesset destroy the idea of a settlement from the roots and threaten that disturbances and instability will return to the region and set aside the bases agreed upon for the peace process.

Chief Editor of AL-AKHBAR Jalal Duwaydar says in an article he wrote that the objectives of the Arab summit have been specified on the bases of rescuing the peace process in light of Arab solidarity. He affirmed that the Arabs are now clear about their stance after

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Binyamin Netanyahu revealed his aggressive plans, toward peace and the Arabs, in his statements before the Knesset.

The writer adds that what the new Israeli Prime Minister said in his statement poses dangers to the Arab nation, which requires solidarity and unity of ranks to defend their dignity, existence, and entity. He confirmed that what Netanyahu said in his statements does not call for optimism at all. In fact, it makes us believe that the opening lines of the sonnet are damning.

Duwaydar says that Israel's Netanyahu errs if he believes he can cheat the Arabs or the world by going backwards to the policy of twisting, turning, bargaining, and stalling the process of establishing just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The writer adds that no one will accept this method, which the new prime minister has started. He affirmed that gambling with peace will not realize security or stability for Israel. It is a flagrant call for a clash and an encouragement of extremism and bloodshed, whose first victims will be Israel.

In his editorial, which appeared in AL-AKHBAR, Jalal Duwaydar said that the Israeli prime minister has unilaterally decided to stop the peace process. However, all the Arabs will not endorse his words. The writer noted that the program of Netanyahu's government is founded on three no's, which are rejected on the Arab and international levels.

Duwaydar restated that there can be no peace without Israel's withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights. Likewise, there can be no peace without negotiations over the status of Jerusalem, nor can there be peace without the establishment of the Palestinian state.

The writer asked: What kind of peace is the Israeli prime minister talking about and what kind of negotiations is he referring to after his statement before the Israeli Knesset, in which he called for expanding settlements and obstructing the peace agreements with the Palestinians?

Duwaydar added that the true explanation for Netanyahu's claims is that he has decided to gamble with peace and Middle East stability, and return to beating the drums of war and tension, which will never be in Israel's interests regardless of justifications. He affirmed that Netanyahu would be wrong if he thinks that his statement and his policy of evasion will enable him to revoke the land-for-peace principle.

The writer stressed that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has decisively clarified Egypt's stance in this regard, when he said that Israel's new policy gives rise to concern and that the Israeli prime minister's statement has annulled all the bases of the peace process founded in accordance with the Madrid Conference and the Oslo Accord.

Under the caption "the preset conditions and the lost key," AL-AKHBAR says that the new Israeli prime minister has placed a strange key for the Arab-Israeli negotiations, the key of preset conditions, for holding negotiations with Syria, Lebanon, or any other Arab side.

The paper notes that Netanyhu has forgotten the Arabs' key, which is land-for-peace, which the Arabs entered in the door of peace when they attended the Madrid Conference. This conference represents a prelude for real and serious negotiations between the Arabs and Israel.

AL-AKHBAR adds that the preset conditions of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu are meant to undermine the basis of the peace process and to return to square one concerning an issue involving the future of the Middle East region. The paper says that this Israeli policy is bound to endanger the entire peace process.

The paper affirms that the best response to Netanyahu's statement was reflected in the remarks made by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa yesterday, when he asserted that Netanyahu's government must accept the land for peace principle and that the Israelis must not expect to take without giving because the land is for peace, commitment for commitment, and right for right. The paper restated that Musa's remarks be used as the final communique of the Arab summit in Cairo. [passage omitted]

In its editorial titled "the summit of Arab fate," the opposition newspaper AL-WAFD says it behooves the Arab leaders to reconsider the entire peace process, after Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu spelled out his government's policy, which represents a coup on the peace process and places Israel's security above the interests of comprehensive peace.

The paper calls for stopping normalization with Israel until Israel feels that the Arabs can effect it and until it complies with the peace process.

Egypt: Papers Comment on Israeli Statements, Summit

NC2106083996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0520 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—The Arab summit due to be held in Cairo tomorrow is given banner headlines on the front pages of today's

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Cairo newspapers. Writers continue to comment on this historic event that will revive joint Arab action. They stress that the summit comes at a crucial time to confront all the dangers surrounding the Arab nation and to unify the Arab stand and close ranks.

In his weekly editorial, AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' asserts that the declared stance of Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his government will be at the top of the Arab summit's priorities. In his editorial, "The Cairo Summit and the Dangers Threatening Peace," he says the Arab summit deliberations will consider all these serious developments and face them with the commensurate stances and resolutions.

Nafi' says the international community and the United States, a sponsor of the peace process in the Middle East, know full well that the Arab nation accepted the choice of peace on the basis of the land-for-peace principle, not on the basis of the principle of peace for peace, which the new Israeli prime minister declared in a blatant defiance of the will of the international community and all the peace plans. He emphasizes that recent developments in the region dictate that the Arab nation must look for other means to safeguard peace and achieve a fair peace on the principles it accepted to establish security and peace for all the parties, not for one country at the expense of others. He says he expects the summit outcome to send a clear and specific message, not only to the Israeli prime minister, who endorses an intransigent policy and brandishes his might, but to the United States, Europe, and the international community. [passage omitted]

Under the headline "Summit To Confront Dangers," AL-AKHBAR Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar says that through unity and solidarity the Arabs are not weak, but a big power. They are those who seek peace based on right and justice because this is the durable peace that is not subject to the whims of adventurers and extremists and is not rash. He says we must not expect miracles from the Arab summit. All that we should hope for is to see the Arab leaders meet, speak frankly, and realize the seriousness of the period the Arab region is passing through and work to contain the differences fanned by enemies at home and abroad.

Duwaydar says it is really strange after all the Arab party has offered and contributed to the peace process to hear Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi call on the participants in the Arab summit to work to ease tension. He says that in his statement Levi pretends to forget that it is Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's aggressive statements that triggered the tension. Duwaydar stresses that Israeli participation in making peace must be based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the agreements that Israel itself signed, not on denying legitimate rights and turning its back on the land-for-peace principle and the UN resolutions to encourage settlement building.

In another editorial headlined "Increasing Fallacies in Israeli Political Statements," AL-AKHBAR notes that Levi said "the Arab summit is unnecessary, but, since it was decided to hold it, I expect it to send a message of peace and to extend a hand." The paper says that whether the Arab summit is necessary or not is not the Israeli Government's business, because it is an Arab affair. The paper says it was decided to hold the summit to adopt a specific and unified stand on peace; it does not mean Israel giving itself the right to assess whether it is important or not. The paper says the tasks before the Arab summit are growing and that the Arab leaders will face up to their responsibility. [passage omitted]

An editorial in the opposition paper AL-WAFD says the Arab summit is required to strongly and courageously confront U.S. pressure and Israeli arrogance and conceit, noting that this can be achieved through Arab solidarity and by sidestepping minor differences. It says the U.S. and Israeli call for not imposing preconditions for resuming the peace process is a big trick that ignores the principles reached in the Oslo and Madrid conferences and the principles on which the peace process was launched, primarily the land-for-peace principle. The paper asks if this call is not the imposition of preconditions by Israel on the Arabs in the peace process. Is it permissible for Israel to impose its preconditions, yet not permissible for the Arabs to protect their interests?

Egypt: Arab Foreign Ministers Conclude Meeting, Musa Comments

NC2106104196 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0957 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—The Arab foreign ministers concluded their expanded meeting at the Foreign Ministry this morning. At a news conference afterward Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stressed that the ministerial meeting was positive, that any differences were over wording, and that the atmosphere was extremely good.

Musa said the ministers completed discussion of the agenda and the draft final communique. The draft agenda has been endorsed and the draft final communique has been referred to the drafting committee, which is comprised of senior officials. The committee will complete preparing the draft communique today for submission to the foreign ministers tomorrow. He said the

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Arab leaders and heads of delegations will begin arriving in Cairo today. He noted that bilateral meetings and group meetings will be held among the Arab heads of state tonight. He said Arab foreign ministers will also meet tonight, as will the drafting committee.

Egypt: Musa, Jordan's al-Kabariti Meet, Make Statements on Summit

NC2006120596 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated after the round of talks he held today with Jordanian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti that they discussed the results of recent contacts they held with a number of Arab foreign ministers and the ideas that were presented in these contacts.

He said they will continue their discussions over a working dinner with the Arab foreign ministers and will then hold another meeting tomorrow, Friday 21 June, to prepare for the summit.

The foreign minister affirmed that convening the summit is an important step at the Arab level to confront developments in the peace process. This is where our reason for optimism comes from. We will leave the results of the conference to the leaders' discussions and hope that these will yield important results regarding protecting the peace process and bolstering Arab coordination and negotiations.

Musa noted that the major points of the summit's agenda are almost agreed upon. However, he adds: We will wait until this evening's meeting.

On Egypt's moves to support the re-nomination of Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali to the position of UN secretary general, after the U.S. Administration declared that it will not support him, Foreign Minister Musa said that this is a nomination issue and election campaign on an international level. We support Dr. Butrus-Ghali because he is an Arab and African secretary general. Our support for him is a definite matter in which there is absolutely no doubt.

Jordanian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti on his part expressed his appreciation for Egypt and its role, leadership, and vanguard position, as well as all its brave and courageous initiatives toward building and bolstering peace, countering terrorism, and establishing an influential Arab stance based on strong bridges of Arab confidence.

He said: My meeting with Mr. 'Amr Musa was successful and we reached agreement in principle over the working agenda of the Cairo conference. This agenda is based on discussing, supporting, and strengthening the peace process. The agenda also addressed the program of joint Arab action and the need to bolster Arab efforts, as we have already said, in order to entrench the Arab stance needed to confront future challenges.

The Jordanian prime minister said that the Arab summit will open the opportunity for all those who honestly and seriously want to present their viewpoints. We hope to emerge with united agreements. He pointed out that the meeting itself at this stage, after a six-year suspension of such meetings, is a great accomplishment for Egypt and its leadership. On whether agreement has been reached between Egypt and Jordan over presenting the issue of regional security and terrorism, al-Kabariti said: Certainly the stances of Egypt and Jordan are identical regarding the issue of generalizing the concept of security to become national and comprehensive security with regard to countering terrorism.

He adds: We believe the accomplishments at Sharm al-Shaykh — a summit that was also spearheaded by Egypt — were successful. The Sharm al-Shaykh summit clearly showed the move toward the concept that peace contradicts terrorism.

On whether there is a Jordanian concept regarding the summit, which was discussed during his visit to a number of Arab countries, Jordanian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said: The objective behind these visits was to attempt to determine the rest of the Arab stances and confirm the need for working in the direction of reconciliation and frankness, and establishing a united Arab stance. I believe that the opportunity is there for us to reach the desired results.

On Jordan's reaction to the new Israeli prime minister's statement, al-Kabariti said that this is an issue the summit conference will discuss in detail. At any rate, we want our stances to be based on acts, not statements.

Egypt: Report on Cancellation of Turkish MP's Visit Denied

NC2006165796 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Ambassador Fathi al-Shadhili, assistant foreign minister for European affairs, today denied a report by the Turkish newspaper HURRIYET that the speaker of the Turkish parliament had cancelled a visit to Egypt at the request of the Egyptian Government. The diplomat said the report is totally groundless.

Ambassador al-Shadhili pointed out that the Turkish ambassador in Cairo notified him early this week that local developments in Turkey require the parliament

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speaker to remain in the country. The visit was thus postponed, the ambassador said.

Egypt: Coptic Pope on Religious Summit Outcome

MM2006085896 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jun 96 p 5

[Interview with Egyptian Coptic Pope Shanudah by Sana' al-Jak; place, date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Jak] What is the next step after the conference "Muslims and Christians for the Sake of Jerusalem?"

[Shanudah] After the conference, the resolutions listed in the final statement should be referred to the politicians concerned to follow up the matter. A committee has been formed for coordination between the religious summit and the [upcoming Cairo Arab] political summit and to follow up on the reactions. The press has a role after the conference, namely to secure strong public opinion, especially if the journalists believe in what they write.

[Al-Jak] Is the media's role limited to the Arab press?

[Shanudah] The Arabs must have means to promote their issue in the West and to reply to what the Jews publish there. That can be done by making contacts with politicians and Arab diplomats in embassies and consulates abroad, or through Arab immigrants in the West, and also by making contacts with the Western press and other media services. In addition, there should be Arab media concerned primarily with our issues in the Western world. Local television stations address us, whereas through television in the West we can address Western public opinion, international politicians, congressmen, and others, in order to present the Jerusalem issue to the world. An Arab lobby should be established along the lines of the Zionist lobby, and we should demand that international resolutions be implemented and the region freed from destructive weapons.

[Al-Jak] In the final statement you urged a clear position on Jerusalem from the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and Arab leaders. How can that be done?

[Shanudah] Before the PNA takes any position, I believe that it needs every political and financial support from all the Arab states to enable it to carry out its work freely, instead of leaving it besieged in a Jewish environment that has its own policy. As for the Arab leaders' stand, that will be reflected in the summit's resolutions and the measures to be taken.

[Al-Jak] How do you view the issue of internationalizing Jerusalem?

[Shanudah] First of all, neither the Arabs nor the Israelis agree to the internationalization of Jerusalem. I do not know who agrees to that. Second, we still have a problem, namely how will the internationalization process be conducted and who can implement it? Will Western states intervene, or will the United Nations, or other authorities we do not know, intervene? And what will be the scale of this Western or foreign intervention? Third, if the internationalization process takes place, who will rule Jerusalem and to whom will it belong? Fourth, if the international process takes place despite all the difficulties we mentioned, will it last, or will it be a transitional step after which Jerusalem would be returned to Israel again? Fifth, if the Arabs accept the internationalization process, they will have relinquished the Arab identity of Jerusalem, as though they are shy to challenge Israel and have thus decided to surrender to it, when it has defied all the world. And how do we know that those who take charge of Jerusalem are not going to return it to Israel some time later? Sixth, if we talk about internationalization, we will not only have relinquished our rights, but also our history and long past, when we cannot guarantee the future.

[Al-Jak] How will you work to prevent Jerusalem from being Judaized?

[Shanudah] We are demanding the Arabs' right to Jerusalem. Then we should struggle [nujahid] for this right and not lose hope. We and this generation are responsible for what our sons and the next generation are going to say. We do not want them to say that we abandoned this right and did not struggle for it. As is known, the Europeans seized Jerusalem in 1099. Saladin recovered it from them 90 years later. This is why it is important for Jerusalem to remain in the memory of history and to be associated with the jihad, determination, and steadfastness.

[Al-Jak] Is the Arab position characterized by the coherence needed for the jihad and steadfastness for the sake of Jerusalem?

[Shanudah] There is Arab disunion; we are making great efforts to work to unite Arab ranks. The Cairo conference should work to adopt resolutions and take measures to achieve that. Especially as we have a just cause, despite the Jews' claim that they are "God's chosen people." This phrase emerged in the area in which the Jews lived as the People of the Book. God wanted this land to be given to a people who worship Him without paganism. And when the divine messages spread on earth, all believers became God's chosen people. Would the creator abandon the peoples of the world and bless the Jews only? As for peace, the word is used in the wrong context these days, and in a

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strange manner, while the Palestinians continue to be attacked in Jerusalem. They are made homeless, their land is confiscated, and they are attacked in the al-Aqsa Mosque.

The Arabs must unite to confront a one-sided peace and to achieve peace for all parties. They must unite to achieve a normalization process that reflects the real thing, not normalization with [a state] occupying Palestinian land, southern Lebanon, and the Golan. As for Israeli security, it cannot be achieved through a border strip in southern Lebanon. Israel's security can be achieved through its withdrawal from southern Lebanon, since its presence there prompts resistance, which is a reaction to some actions. If Israel returns to Lebanon its territory in the south, the resistance's role will end and Israel will be able to guarantee its security.

[Al-Jak] Finally, what are the characteristics of the Islamic-Christian conference?

[Shanudah] The conference was broadly based geographically, as it was attended by clerics and thinkers from Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Sudan, and other countries. It was held at the top level in terms of religious representation. It included a large number of archbishops and Christian church leaders. It also included Islamic leaders, imams, and muftis. The conference is serious about its resolutions, which will be followed up by the committee arising from it. It is a prelude to further steps that should be implemented after the first step has been implemented as regards rescuing Jerusalem and restoring its Arab identity.

Sudan

Sudan: Antigovernment Leaflets Reportedly Distributed in Khartoum

NC2006192196 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1723 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 20 Jun (MENA)—The opposition political forces' practice of handing out memorandums, releasing statements, and distributing leaflets hostile to the Sudanese Government inside Sudan is currently widespread in Khartoum. A strongly-worded leaflet against the Sudanese government signed by the Sudanese National Democratic Grouping was distributed in the heart of Khartoum today. The leaflets call for the overthrow of the Sudanese Government, the formation of a national government, and lifting the ban on the activities of the Sudanese political parties so that they can exercise their activities openly. The leaflets criticize the economic policies that have caused great economic problems for the Sudanese people.

It should be recalled that since 10 June the proliferation of memorandums, statements, and leaflets has affected the political, popular, and student sectors. It began with the opposition forces handing a strongly-worded memorandum to Sudanese President 'Umar al- Bashir without referring to him as president. It called for the formation of a transitional national unity government. It was followed by statements released by students and doctors. The Muslim Brotherhood and trade unions issued statements before the presidential and parliamentary elections.

Sudan: Authorities Said To Arrest Ummah Party Leaders

NC2006181096 Cairo MENA in English 1743 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 20 (MENA)—The Sudanese security authorities early today arrested five of the Ummah Party leaderships, a statement by the Sudanese Ummah Party's media bureau said today.

The list of the detained comprises Yusuf Muhammad Yusuf, 'Abd-al-Latif al-Badawi, a journalist at the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY (SUNA).

They were arrested on charges of instigating and mobilizing the people against the regime and distributing a memorandum that was issued in the name of the Democratic National Grouping.

Sudan: AL-AKHBAR Reports Student Antiregime Protests in Khartoum

NC2006183796 Paris AFP in English 1754 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 20 (AFP) — Students at Khartoum University belonging to the Sudanese opposition demonstrated against the country's ruling Islamic military junta, an Egyptian daily reported Thursday [20 June].

"Numerous students on Wednesday shouted slogans against the government denouncing the economic crisis which has hit the country mainly due to rises in oil and basic food prices," AL-AKHBAR reported.

The students from the National Democratic Alliance published a statement calling on "all the forces of the Sudanese people to oppose the regime of General 'Umar al-Bashir," it added.

The London-based Arabic daily AL-HAYAH meanwhile said the students hinted at a wave of civil disobedience to topple the regime.

The alliance is an umbrella group of parties opposed to al- Bashir's government, which banned all opposition movements when it came to power in a coup d'etat in 1989.

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Sudan: Minister Denies Coordination With Egypt on Nile Water

NC2006194596 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 20 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Ya'qub Abu- Shurah, Sudanese minister of water resources, has denied the existence of any coordination between Egypt and Sudan on the issue of Ethiopia's building new dams on the Blue Nile.

In a statement this evening in reaction to remarks made on the matter by Dr. Ahmad Muhammad Adam, first under secretary of the Sudanese Ministry of Irrigation, he said that no contacts have been made between the two countries to coordinate on the Blue Nile waters.

He said reports on Sudanese-Egyptian diplomatic coordination are totally groundless.

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Kuwait

Kuwait: Prime Minister, Foreign Minister in 'Heated Confrontation'

MM2006143996 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 20 Jun 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Disagreements Erupt in al-Sabah Family Over 'Hostile States'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Dubai, Cairo, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Disagreements have erupted among leaders of the ruling family in Kuwait a few days before the Arab summit, whose proceedings are scheduled to begin in Cairo on Saturday [22 June].

The amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, has failed to contain the heated confrontation between Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the heir apparent [and prime minister], and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the strong man in the government, who angrily left the country for Morocco "on a private and open [maftuhah] vacation" following disagreements with the heir apparent over the decision to take further steps of rapprochement toward the "hostile" states that sympathized with Iraq during the Gulf crisis, namely "Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, and Palestine."

Well-informed diplomatic sources have stressed to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that Shaykh Sabah's absence from the Arab foreign ministers meeting, which will discuss the summit's agenda, confirms his intention to announce his resignation if Shaykh Sa'd takes any separate initiative during the Arab summit.

The sources said that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad went to the amiri palace to submit his resignation following "a stormy meeting" of the Kuwaiti cabinet last Sunday, which witnessed a heated personal confrontation between him and the heir apparent.

Shaykh Sabah pulled out of the meeting, threatening to submit and announce his resignation before the Cairo Arab summit.

The Kuwaiti amir managed to dissuade Shaykh Sabah from announcing his resignation, but he could not persuade him to attend the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo on Friday, instead of going to Morocco on "vacation."

Observers believe that Shaykh Sabah's stand has detonated the suppressed disagreements inside the ruling family. They do not rule out that the entire cabinet could submit its resignation. [passage omitted]

Kuwait: Prime Minister Will Not Shake Hands With 'Hostile States' in Cairo

MM2106093796 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Ghunaym Muhammad al-Mutayri: "Prominent Kuwaiti Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Shaykh Sa'd Will Not Shake Hands With Leaders of 'Hostile States' in Cairo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait — A high-ranking Kuwaiti source who is a member of the delegation accompanying Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, to the Arab summit in Cairo has stressed that "Kuwait is going to the summit to confirm its constant care for the Arab nation's interests and its support for its Arab brothers in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle, on the grounds that it [peace] is the strategic option of all parties." The source added that Kuwaiti policy is for linking normalization with progress in the negotiations between the Arab brothers and Israel.

On Kuwait's position toward the states that supported Iraq during the invasion and reconciliation with them, the source stressed that Shaykh Sa'd "will not shake hands with any of the leaders of these states until open and frank discussions have been conducted and the mistakes they committed against Kuwait on 2 August 1990 corrected. He will ignore anyone who continues to insist on a position supportive of Iraq." The source added that "if they adopted stands against right during the Iraqi occupation of our country and supported the aggressor, we must compel them to rectify their previous stands. Anyone who wants to shake hands with us at the summit must realize that openness comes before reconciliation. If they want the summit to be merely a summer cloud, let them continue to adopt their previous stands."

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah said in a statement circulated in Kuwait yesterday that "the Arabs are talking about reconciliation as if they were talking about a defeat in a soccer match, and as if they were not aware that a sea of blood is currently separating us from Iraq and that another sea of hatred is separating us from the states that supported Iraq in its aggression against us."

He also said: "They are talking about reconciliation as though it is a fruit ripe for the picking. But regrettably, they are not talking about the country whose sanctity was violated and whose institutions were plundered, the country which is still suffering from the effects of the aggression." Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad pointed out

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that Kuwait's conditions for Arab reconciliation are: "acknowledgement that what happened was a crime against Kuwait and its people, the return of the POW's, the return of all stolen money and property, and the payment of the bills of the occupation, liberation, and subsequent costs."

United Arab Emirates

UAE: Paper Urges Summit To Respond to 'Declaration of War'

JN2006200296 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 18 Jun 96 p 1

[Editorial: "Summit Cannot But Respond"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has declared war, and the summit cannot but respond because Sharon, Eytan, Mordekhay, the maniacs of Shas, and the mad members of the "Third Way" have left it no other choice but to respond. Jerusalem, the Golan, and the settlements — which will increase — are all for Israel. As for the self-rule, its borders will cease to exist once terrorism emerges, and this is bound to happen. A Palestinian state! President 'Arafat has the right to dream.

"We want peace and normalization, and everything that is left is yours," Netanyahu declared in unambiguous words, using all living languages, and without using diplomatic terms or beating around the bush. Netanyahu could be a blessing! The Arabs need him because he targets them collectively, and not individually, as his predecessor Peres did. Netanyahu targets them with his bare hands, and not by using a diplomatic glove. He also has nothing to hide, except his nuclear arsenal and the vengeance of his forefathers.

Ben-Gurion is the one who said: "We will end the war and settle our forefathers' score with Egypt, Ashur, and Aram." Netanyahu picked up where Ben-Gurion left off. Ashur in Baghdad is finished, or almost so, even if this is a temporary situation. As for Egypt, it has persisted, along with Syria. Sacred anger extends from the Gulf to the Ocean.

Netanyahu does not speak the language of the age. He is burying the whole age in the cemetery of his forefathers, along with greater Jerusalem. President Clinton asked the Arab summit in Cairo to wait for the formation of the Netanyahu government and listen to its platform and not pass premature judgments. The Arabs called a summit to protect peace. The Israeli Government was formed and the hyenas came out of their dens carrying a declaration of war between their teeth.

The Arabs cannot but respond. The Cairo summit is only the beginning. If the Arabs don't do that, then Netanyahu's posterity will settle scores with our posterity later. The summit cannot but respond.

Yemen

Yemen: State Supports 2nd Term for UN's Butrus-Ghali

JN2006190796 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry made the following statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA':

The Government of the Republic of Yemen would like to express its support for reappointing Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali as UN secretary general for a second term. This stems from appreciation of what the United Nations has achieved under Dr. Butrus-Ghali.

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Iraq: UN Reports Destruction of al-Hakim Germ Warfare Plant

NC2106111996 Paris AFP in English 1059 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, June 21 (AFP)—UN experts said Friday [21 June] that they had completely destroyed Iraq's main germ warfare plant.

"The al-Hakim complex which in the past produced germ warfare weapons no longer exists," an official from the UN offices in Baghdad told AFP, asking to remain anonymous.

A 20-strong team of experts from the UN Special Commission on disarming Iraq (UNSCOM), which began its work in mid-May, "has finished dismantling the factory at al-Hakim and is due to leave Iraq on Saturday," he added.

The factory is 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of Baghdad and has been described as the country's "largest germ warfare complex."

The announcement came as UNSCOM chief Rolf Ekeus was in Iraq to try to convince the Iraqis to lift a ban on his inspectors visiting military sites where illegal weapons are thought to be hidden.

Iraq: Daily Criticizes U.S. Attempts To Maintain Sanctions

JN2106103296 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH criticized the U.S. attempts to make the international community accept the continuation of the economic blockade against the Iraqi people and to muffle the growing demands for lifting the blockade. The paper says these attempts seek to achieve illegitimate U.S. interests and schemes at the expense of the Iraqi people and their future generations, contrary to the civilized world's laws, conventions, and traditions.

In an article today, the paper says that as the blockade approaches the end of its sixth year, there is a growing world conviction that the Iraqi people are being done grave injustice as many powers ignore what the United States has done and is doing in this regard. The paper indicates that nobody can ignore what is taking place, for the U.S. plot against Iraq has turned into a big scandal with known characters, participants, and instigators. Indifference toward the Iraqi people's unprecedented and unjustifiable human losses is no longer possible despite the U.S. maneuvers, procrastination, and fabrication of lies.

The paper notes: The letter that Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general, sent to Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, contains several indications in this regard. It does not simply reflect a personal opinion, but carries precise and detailed indications about the volume and nature of the daily human suffering caused by the blockade.

The paper indicates that what Clark wanted to emphasize in his letter is that the international community is becoming increasingly convinced that the responsibility of stopping the blockade crime must be the first priority, not only to end the injustice done to the people of Iraq, but also to prevent the United States from developing a taste for its crime and spreading the policy of imposing sanctions on other peoples as required by its global interests and objectives.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that from the outset, the blockade was a gross violation of the UN Charter and the spirit of international law. Under no circumstances does international law allow that any people be exposed to the dangers of genocide and starvation. This is a conviction that has begun to grow internationally, and its effects have begun to reach Washington itself, where a recent international seminar regarded the blockade imposed on Iraq a flagrant violation of the Iraqi people's basic rights and the UN official obligations toward human rights.

The paper indicates that while that seminar was an indicator to the new growing awareness throughout the world, especially with respect to its references to the illegality of the sanctions and the need to halt them immediately, tangible and practical stands are still required to prevent the continuation of the crime of the blockade and to push for granting Iraq its legitimate right to the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 without delay.

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Israel: Netanyahu Says 'Must Honor International Agreements'

TA2006173996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has emphasized his government's commitment to honoring signed agreements. He said he also expects others to uphold international agreements. In his first public appearance as prime minister, Netanyahu addressed the World Zionist Executive. Our correspondent Gay Qotev was there.

[Begin recording] [Qotev] We may not be able to achieve peace based on security in a single term, but the government is committed to aspiring for that target, Netanyahu said. The prime minister reiterated his commitment to honor agreements signed by Israeli Governments.

[Netanyahu] It is our position that governments must honor international agreements, and we expect a similar commitment from others. It was a Likud government that was responsible for the breakthrough on peace with the Arab world by signing the peace treaty with Egypt in 1979. We have honored our commitments since Camp David and the Madrid conference and we extend our hand to our neighbors in order to create an impetus for peace.

[Qotev] The prime minister told the gathering that we must fight assimilation. We are losing our best sons to mixed marriages, he said, and called for learning Judaism and the Hebrew language in the Diaspora.

Security arrangements at the prime minister's first appearance were especially tight. [end recording]

Israel: Netanyahu, 'Arafat Representatives To Meet 'Next Week'

TA2006181696 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Jun 96

[Video report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] A few days ago, a senior Likud official with a security background passed a series of messages to the prime minister from senior Palestinian figures urging him to meet with Yasir 'Arafat. We have learned that next week the first meeting between a Netanyahu representative and a senior Palestinian representative will take place. The names mentioned were Dore Gold and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas].

Meanwhile, the birth pangs of the Netanyahu government continue. At today's first political debate, in preparation for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit next week, Foreign Minister David Levi was invited and so was Finance Minister Dan Meridor, which symbolizes his membership of the limited political forum around Netanyahu. Who was not invited? Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay. The meeting did not discuss Hebron, but senior political sources said that the defense minister's presence at such discussions is vital.

Netanyahu is busy working on responses for President Clinton and Christopher and he knows what they expect to hear. Yesterday, President Clinton's remarks to a closed meeting with Jewish leaders were put on Netanyahu's desk: I can work with Netanyahu, he is a man of the center, not a rightist, and a son of western culture, Clinton said.

At today's deliberations, the following message was decided on for Netanyahu to deliver to the Arab summit meeting in Cairo.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] I wish to say that this government is committed to continuing the aspiration to achieve peace with security. It is our position that governments must honor international agreements, and we expect a similar commitment from others. [end recording]

This is the first step toward the unavoidable evacuation of Hebron.

Israel: Netanyahu's Diplomatic Adviser Discusses Peace Process

BR2106134496 Paris LE FIGARO in French 21 Jun 96 p 6

[Interview with Dore Gold, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's diplomatic adviser, by Philippe Gelie in Jerusalem; date not given: "Dore Gold: 'We Are Disappointed With Our Neighbors'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Gelie] How do you interpret the Arab mobilization in Cairo?

[Gold] We have nothing against the Arab countries' desire to regain unity and inject new life into their institutions. But I must say that I have been extremely disappointed with the reactions of our neighbors to Binyamin Netanyahu's program and offer of dialogue. There is no justification for their a priori negative approach to the new government. The Labor Party, despite all their talk, also adopted a very tough stance on Hebron and sealing off the Territories.

[Gelie] Are you not in advance ruling out the creation of a Palestinian state, a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and the sharing of sovereignty in Jerusalem?

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[Gold] A distinction must be drawn between the positions held by a party and the conducting of negotiations. The government's platform expresses our point of view. The Palestinians and Syrians are doing the same thing on their side. But we are ready to negotiate without setting any preconditions. This indicates that we are not seeking to impose our views and that we are counting on a reciprocal approach [from the other side].

[Gelie] What would you be prepared to give up in exchange for peace?

[Gold] What are they ready to give up? Everyone seems to forget that Likud signed the first peace agreement with Egypt at Camp David back in 1979 and that it was we who started the discussions with the Palestinians at the Madrid conference in 1991. We are prepared to take up a direct dialogue, without any preconditions being laid down by either side. I hope that the Cairo summit will not lay down any preconditions.

[Gelie] You are casting aside the formula "land for peace." What will be the new rules of play?

[Gold] Until now the Labor Party have said that "Israel wants peace," while the Palestinians were stipulating a series of precise and specific objectives, such as the creation of a state. These were their rules of play. We, on the other hand, want a balanced exchange, without either threats or violence. We are very cautious in our use of language, and I believe that the other parties should follow us in this respect.

Israel: Partial Hebron Pullout, Overall Israeli Control Considered

TA2006174196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A senior security official says Israel is examining the possibility of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment from most of Hebron while leaving overall security responsibility in Israeli hands. According to this plan, the areas vacated by the IDF will become Area B, similar to rural areas in the West Bank where the Israeli Army maintains overall security control. Palestinian Police and international observers will be allowed in Area B.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah says the Palestinians are opposed to any changes in the redeployment agreement. He said Israel should fulfill the agreement signed with the Palestinian Authority [PA] on the future of the city.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 20 June carries a live telephone interview with Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, "head of the Israel desk in the PA," by correspondents Rafi Ginat and Mikhal Gazit. Asked whether the Palestinians will be able to wait much longer for "the evacuation of Hebron," Abu-Zayidah says: "I do not think we should have to wait at all." He adds: "Unfortunately, the Hebron issue has become a test, a symbol of the continuation or, alternatively, the termination of the peace process." Asked whether the PA is planning any steps if the redeployment is not carried out, he replies: "We prefer to remain optimistic and to hope that the peace process will continue."]

Israel: Meeting on Hebron Redeployment Ends Without Decision

TA2106115896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting held this morning on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Hebron is now over. The issue was discussed in a meeting at the prime minister's bureau in Jerusalem attended by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay, Foreign Minister David Levi, and senior security officials.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that at the meeting, the defense establishment presented its position that the city should be defined as part of Area B, in which the IDF retains overall responsibility for security. In addition, the participants considered the possible ramifications of failing to uphold the Hebron redeployment agreement reached between Uri Savir and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]. No decisions have been made yet, and the discussions will continue.

Israel: Levi Meets Egyptian Ambassador, Relays Message to Mubarak

TA2106111596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister David Levi met in his office in Jerusalem with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni, who will leave for Cairo to follow the deliberations of the Arab summit opening tomorrow. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports:

[Begin recording] [Raz] Basyuni will also be taking with him a message from Foreign Minister Levi to President Mubarak. Most of the talk between Levi and Basyuni focused on the anti-Israeli climate prevailing these days in the Arab world, as manifested in the pronouncements on the eve of the Cairo summit. Probably in response to Levi's remarks about this harsh climate, Ambassador Basyuni spoke about the Netanyahu government's basic guidelines which, I quote, are so extreme that they leave no room for negotiation. Following these exchanges and according to a prior arrangement, Levi relayed a

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message to President Mubarak. What follows is the content of the message:

[Levi] It is a message of peace. This peace is not attained through threats, and there is certainly no need to pressure Israel to carry out its wish, which is peace. There are problems that should be discussed in an open and frank dialogue. Running amok is not the right recipe for peace.

[Raz] How do you promote peace? I assume Ambassador Basyuni (?also wants it). There is the question of the negotiations with the Palestinians, which today centers on the problem of Hebron. How do you deal with it?

[Levi] The government hasn't even been in power for a week, and it is already being judged; the future is being determined although the government has not yet been approached. The government is getting organized, and is determined to progress toward peace. There are serious problems that we must study from every angle, then hold talks, and reach decisions. The attitude of the Israeli Government contains no noes, but many yeses. There is a great deal of positiveness. Whoever reads this government with extreme eyes will actually find an alibi to judge it before it has begun working. Our direction is peace. There are problems, and we are not ducking them. We will discuss them calmly.

[Raz] Sir, when you talk about many yeses, does this mean yes to a redeployment in Hebron?

[Levi] We are studying the issue. We have problems. If each side ignores the problems of the other we will make no progress. Therefore, running amok does not guarantee peace, but a careful examination does. And, when decisions are made these should stem from understanding. This is how we will proceed.

[Raz] One should pay attention to some of his pronouncements: our policy contains no noes, but many yeses; peace is not attained through pressure or threats. The foreign minister was actually trying to put some of the burden for promoting peace on Egypt. He said Egypt bears a responsibility to defuse the tension and enable a good dialogue, and he used the word dialogue several times. He added: We want negotiations with Syria, we want a calm Lebanon.

He further told Basyuni, and I quote: We want to make progress with the Palestinian Authority. This is the partner; there is no other, and we will talk with it. At the end of the meeting, Levi immediately left for the Prime Minister's Office to take part in the sensitive, complex, and complicated debate about the redeployment and pullout from Hebron. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 21 June adds that "Mr. Levi was invited to visit Egypt, and he accepted the invitation."]

Israel: Peres Says al-Asad 'Prepared' To Meet Him; No Date Set

TA2006173496 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Labor bureau is convening today to discuss the election failure. Our correspondent Danielle Shani reports from Labor headquarters in Tel Aviv:

[Shani] Labor Chairman Shim'on Peres is still refusing to say when he will retire. All he was prepared to say today was that the next party leader will be elected in about a year. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the first bureau meeting since his defeat, Peres explained why he decided to announce early elections rather than wait for November. The reason is known — the negotiations with Syria were deadlocked — but the outgoing prime minister today revealed the content of some messages exchanged by Damascus and Jerusalem.

[Begin Peres recording] I sent a message to al-Asad in which I said: Listen, if you really want it before November, modify your negotiating method. You can't negotiate by remote control. Come to the negotiations yourself; that way I'll know you are serious. I received a reply: I'm prepared to meet with you, but I can't give you a date. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Shani] Peres proposed an organizational idea:

[Begin Peres recording] I suggest that we determine how to organize the work of our party's 34 Knesset faction members: Perhaps it can be done in the form of a shadow government, or some other form of team. What's clear is that we should be a militant opposition. [end recording]

Israel: U.S. Report on Technology Transfers to PRC Denied

TA2006044596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A U.S. intelligence report is said to again accuse Israel of transferring American military technology to China. According to THE WASHINGTON TIMES, the report was presented to Israeli officials in Washington in order to stress to them that this is the last opportunity which the United States is giving Israel to respond on the matter.

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Israeli sources in the American capital flatly denied that a new report has been presented. They also note that Israel has rejected charges in the past of such technology transfers to China.

Israel: Justice Minister's Appointment Appealed for 'Criminal' Acts

TA1906103096 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Jun 96 p 2

[Report by Evelyn Gordon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The High Court of Justice will today hear a petition against the appointment of attorney Ya'aqov Ne'eman as justice minister.

The petition, filed yesterday by GLOBES journalist Yo'av Yitzhaq alleges that Ne'eman committed a variety of criminal acts, and is therefore not fit to be a minister.

However, none of the affairs mentioned in the petition ever resulted in an indictment, or even in a criminal investigation.

According to Israel Radio, Ne'eman responded to the petition by lashing out at the State Attorney's Office, charging it with leaking information to the press to prevent the appointment of an observant Jew as justice minister.

However, five of the six affairs cited in the petition have been public knowledge for years. The sixth is related to a document submitted in the ongoing trial of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] leader Arye Der'i two days ago, but the timing appears to have been purely coincidental: The witness to whom the document relates is testifying in London, and the date for his testimony was set long before Ne'eman's appointment was even rumored.

The incidents cited by Yitzhaq are as follows:

— The Beisky Commission found that Ne'eman was partially responsible for the 1983 bank shares collapse, having served as director-general of the Finance Ministry from 1979-81. However, the committee's only recommendation against him was that had he still been in his post he should have been fired. No criminal charges were brought against him.

— After the bus No. 300 affair, in which the General Security Service killed two captured terrorists and then lied about it, Ne'eman helped arrange blanket pardons for those responsible before they were indicted. His actions were sharply criticized by jurists at the time, but again, no criminal complaint was filed against him.

— In 1987, Ne'eman served as temporary liquidator of the Kokhav Hashomron company. According to Yitzhaq, he prepared a draft report in which he said four managers appeared to have stolen $5.3 million from the company. Under threat of this report, the managers paid $3 million to the company, out of which Ne'eman's $803,000 fee was paid.

Afterwards, Ne'eman submitted a final report which cleared the managers of all blame. Yitzhaq charged that either Ne'eman wrote a false draft to pressure the managers into paying, or he wrote a false final report to reward them for enabling him to collect his fee. There has never been a criminal investigation into the affair.

— Ne'eman and Dov Weisglass represented former Bank Mizrahi managing director Aharon Me'ir in a slander suit against Yitzhaq. The suit ended in what Yitzhaq claims was a fraudulent arbitration agreement. On the basis of this agreement, Ne'eman and Weisglass obtained a refund of the NIS [new Israeli shekels] 25,000 court fee. In 1994, the High Court upheld Attorney-General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir's decision not to open criminal proceedings for fraud against Ne'eman and Weisglass.

— Ne'eman was involved in the liquidation proceedings against Avraham Shapira's Carmel Carpets company as attorney for one of the creditors. According to Yitzhaq, questions arose as to whether the supposed creditor, MAT Investment Corp., was not just a front for Shapira.

Another theory allegedly considered by the liquidators was that MAT was legitimate, but that Ne'eman, in a clear conflict of interest, had represented MAT and Shapira simultaneously.

The petition also charged that Ne'eman had refused to answer the liquidators' questions until threatened with a court summons. To date, however, the liquidators have not requested the opening of a criminal investigation against Ne'eman.

According to a police memorandum submitted in the Der'i trial on Monday [17 June], British witness Martin Brown told the police that Ne'eman had told him not to cooperate with them. Ne'eman denies this, and Brown has refused to confirm the police statement.

Israel: Frenkel To Be Reappointed Bank of Israel Governor

TA1906112996 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Jun 96 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu formally asked Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel yesterday to stay in his post for a

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second, five-year term, and to head a new council of economic experts which will work alongside the cabinet, aides to the two men yesterday said.

Frenkel agreed. The governor, whose reappointment should be approved next month by the cabinet, will also attend regularly cabinet sessions on economic affairs, participate in meetings of the ministerial committee on privatization, and personally advise the premier during the budget's preparation.

The announcement was released after Tel Aviv's financial markets had ended the day's trading, but the reappointment, and the establishment of the new council, are likely to be accepted favorably by traders and analysts, considering Frenkel's image as both a fiscal and a monetary hardliner, his investor-friendly aura, and the high esteem with which he is held in leading financial capitals.

Netanyahu said the decision to renew Frenkel's appointment was taken in consultation with incoming Finance Minister Dan Meridor.

Government sources say the reappointment apparently signals an intention on Netanyahu's part to maintain a strong-shekel policy while ignoring calls in various quarters of the business sector to stimulate exports by allowing the currency to lose some altitude in financial markets.

As for the new council, it is unclear what its duties, clout and composition would ultimately be, but Treasury sources said some fear it might generate friction among officials, if it is to be bestowed some power.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu abandoned his original intention to transfer the budget department from the Treasury to the Prime Minister's Office, a move which would have deprived the ministry of its main source of power, and reportedly would have made Meridor reject the offer to head it.

However, the Treasury will be losing the Civil Service Commission to the Prime Minister's Office, and replace its current head, Yitzhaq Galnur, with outgoing cabinet secretary Shmu'el Holander.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 19 June, in a page C1 report by Judy Maltz, reports that "the state budget for 1996 will be cut by 2 billion shekels, and the 1997 budget will be slashed by an additional 3 billion shekels. This was the agreement reached between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel, following which the latter agreed to assume the post of finance minister in Netanyahu's government.

["HA'ARETZ has learned that the two men also agreed to set a multiyear inflation target of between 2 to 3 percent within four years."]

Israel: Vilna'i Says IDF Lacks Training in Conventional War With Syria

TA1906094196 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Jun 96 p 2

[Report by Douglas Davis]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London — Deputy Chief of Staff Matan Vilna'i has expressed concern about the lack of training by Israeli combat troops for a possible conventional war with Syria.

In an interview to be published today in the London-based JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, Vilna'i noted that while the emphasis in IDF [Israel Defense Forces] planning was moving toward antiterrorism and "over-the-horizon" operations, the danger of a conventional war with Syria could not be discounted.

The Syrian Army has some special forces in Lebanon and some bridges on the Golan Heights border," he said "Except for these units, all of their army is sitting in their barracks and training all the time.

"My concern is that at the same time most IDF combat troops spend less time training for conventional war, being occupied with anti-terrorist and other duties as they are."

Israel, he said, "must be ready to fight the next major conventional war," adding that the absence of a peace agreement with Syria meant that we need to maintain and modernize our armored formations, our jets and our navy."

Vilna'i pointed out that in addition to the threat of terrorism and the possibility of a conventional war with Syria, Israel was also preparing for the potential threat posed by Iran and Libya, which had acquired weapons of mass destruction.

"We have to be able to counter those as well," he said. "That requires new, over-the-horizon capabilities."

Vilna'i, according to JANE'S, was referring to the 25 F 15I longrange strike aircraft which Israel will receive next year, as well as its Dolphin-class submarines and Eilat-class missile corvettes, which could be deployed off the Libyan coast, if necessary.

"The big difficulty in having to plan for these three operational environments is that quite often a decision which is very good for the fight against terrorism will be bad for the other requirements," said Vilna'i.

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"So, when we spend $2 billion on the F 15Is, we also have to take into account what's needed elsewhere. You need the new Merkava tank to fight the next war and other equipment to prevent terrorism attacks.

"The trouble is that a half-solution is not good. You must have the full answer for each environment."

Defense Ministry Director-General David 'Ivri acknowledged that Israel maintains "a number" of Jericho ballistic missiles, but declined to provide details about this capacity. "As long as there is no complete peace," he said, "we should still keep some of our capabilities unexposed."

According to a recent issue of Jane's World Air Force, however, Israel has three Jericho-equipped missile squadrons based near Sederot Mikha, 45 kilometers southeast of Tel Aviv.

Israel: IDF Terms Amnesty Report 'Irresponsible'

TA2006092196 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Jun 96 p 12

[Report by Jerusalem Post Staff]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] yesterday issued a response to the parts of Amnesty International's report for 1995 which referred to its activities, calling it "irresponsible" and presented in "a one-sided and distorted manner."

"Most serious of all," the IDF said, "is the fact that throughout the entire report, (Amnesty) did not see fit to mention the murderous terrorist attacks which took a bloody toll on IDF soldiers and innocent Israeli civilians. It should be noted that in 1995, 17 Israeli civilians and 31 IDF soldiers died as a result of terrorist attacks. In 1996 (thus far), 50 Israeli civilians and 18 IDF soldiers died as a result of terrorist attacks."

In condemning the destruction of homes of terrorist suspects by the IDF, Amnesty "for some reason left out that these were the houses of those who carried out horrendous terrorist attacks," the IDF statement said.

"The State of Israel reserves the right to defend itself from the constant terrorist activities of the Palestinian terrorist organizations ... while making a maximum effort to prevent damage to the local population," the IDF said.

Israel: Likud, UTJ Coalition Agreement Reported

TA1806143996 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jun 96 p A6

["Coalition Agreement Between the Likud-Gesher-Tzomet faction and the United Torah Jewry [UTJ] Faction in the 14th Knesset"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. Both factions have reached agreement with regard to the establishment of a coalition between them.

2. The government's policy guidelines and the attached coalition regulations constitute an inseparable part of this agreement.

3. The coalition factions will present a bill to amend The Basic Law: The Government, within 14 days of the government's establishment.

4. The coalition factions pledge to support a government bill that will expedite and simplify the privatization of all government companies, banks, and legally chartered authorities.

5. Any private draft bills presented by the opposition on religious issues will be subject to coalition discipline in order to remove them from the agenda, unless these are accepted by all coalition factions.

6. Religious legislation will be undertaken only by the government. All coalition factions will support these legislative initiatives.

7. The coalition factions will support amendments to the Planning and Construction Law so that the endorsement of construction plans will be expedited.

8. The coalition factions will support legislation that will permit responsibility for the Israel Lands Administration to be transferred to the Prime Minister's Office.

9. Continuity will apply to draft bills on religious issues with the agreement of the UTJ faction.

10. Without detracting from the clause in the government's guidelines on maintaining the status quo, it is herewith agreed that: A) The Conversion Law will be amended so that conversion to Judaism in Israel will only be recognized with the approval of the Chief Rabbinate. B) The Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, will be amended in such a way as to guarantee that the laws governing the importing of frozen meat will be extended for an indefinite period. C) The law on Jewish religious services will be amended, including those issues relating to the establishment of religious councils, their composition, halakhic character, and management.

11. The government will initiate research activity into the history of Eretz Yisra'el and the Israeli people,

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including the implementation of archaeological digs. Out of respect for the dignity of the dead, it will be stipulated that wherever graves or human bones are found, the continuation of work at the site will require the approval of a committee set up for this purpose by the government.

12. The government will act toward the proper enforcement of existing legislation on religious issues.

13. It is emphasized that with regard to the issuance of permits for work on the Sabbath and the operation of public transportation from the start to the end of the Sabbath, the government will act upon and enforce the law and regulations.

14. Any affront to the feelings of the ultra-Orthodox and religious community in residential areas where they constitute a majority through public desecration of the Sabbath will be barred.

15. A ministerial committee will be established whose job will be to prevent iniquities in business activities on the Sabbath.

16. The government will consider the housing problems of young couples, large families, and new immigrants a topmost national mission and will act on all planes to solve this serious problem.

17. The budgets and status of religious services and the support of torah institutions has been hurt and eroded in recent years. These budgets will be updated and amended.

18. The government will set up a team that will map the national needs of ultra-Orthodox education with regard to building classrooms in torah schools, small yeshivas, girls schools, seminars, etc., in a bid to attain parity with the official schooling system within two to three years.

19. A committee will be set up in the Prime Minister's Office which will urgently check the needs and determine the aid and budgets of the central national organizations dealing with torah and ultra-Orthodox culture.

20. The government will earmark areas for the construction of religious and educational institutions and will complete the construction of such institutions in places where nothing has been done.

21. The government will see to the special education of ultra-Orthodox children in need of such education, as part of the ultra-Orthodox schooling.

22. The government will also work toward expanding religious education of immigrant children.

23. The prime minister will hold the construction and housing portfolio throughout the government's term in office. A UTJ representative will be the sole deputy minister in this ministry. The prime minister will empower the deputy minister to act on his behalf in the Knesset and in the Construction and Housing Ministry on all the ministry's affairs within his jurisdiction and authority. The aforementioned deputy minister, who will be based in the ministry, will be invited to take part in cabinet sessions dealing with the affairs of the Construction and Housing Ministry and other issues pertaining to the ministry.

24. Municipal elections will be held in Bene Beraq no later than October 1997.

25. One of the Knesset representatives in the committee approving the appointment of rabbinical judges will come from UTJ.

26. UTJ will have a representative in the committee dealing with religious buildings.

27. A UTJ representative will serve as chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee.

28. UTJ representatives will regularly participate in the meetings of the ministerial committee dealing with religious councils.

Israel: NRP Sources on Negotiations Over Government Guidelines

TA1806115096 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jun 96 p A6

[Report by Shahar Ilan]

[FBIS Translated Text] The NRP's [National Religious Party] two main demands during the negotiations on the government's basic guidelines were rejected. There will not be a national referendum or elections on the final status arrangements, and there is no clear-cut commitment not to evacuate settlements. On the other hand, oral understandings were reached between the NRP and the Likud on incentives to the settlers.

— No imposition of sovereignty. The NRP demanded that the guidelines state that "in any permanent settlement Israeli sovereignty will be assured in vital areas of Judaea and Samaria." The intention was "Greater Jerusalem" (Ma'ale Adumim, Betar, the 'Etzyon Bloc, and Giv'at Ze'ev) as well as the settlement blocs in the territories. The guidelines do not contain any reference to the imposition of sovereignty.

Knesset Member [MK] Hanan Porat, who handled the NRP's negotiations over the guidelines, explained that the Likud's right wing — MK's Beni Begin and 'Uzi Landau — opposed that wording because they were concerned that it could be viewed as agreeing to a territorial compromise.

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— Will settlements be evacuated?

The NRP demanded an undertaking that not a single settlement would be uprooted, but made do with a commitment that "in any political arrangement, the government shall insist on ensuring the existence and security of Jewish settlements and their affinity with the State of Israel. The Government of Israel will continue to bear full responsibility for the Jewish settlements and their residents." Porat said that "the Likud wanted the wording to be positive and not negative, and stated unequivocally that it means no settlement will be uprooted, and that is obvious."

— No national referendum. The NRP demanded that any political settlement be decided by a special majority of 50 percent in a national referendum by those who have the right to vote. Porat attached great importance to the demand, but was forced to give it up. On the other hand, the NRP did achieve several significant changes in the political guidelines:

— No right of return. At Porat's request the following sentence was added to the guidelines: "The government...will oppose 'the right of return' of Arab populations to any part of the Land of Israel west of the Jordan River."

— No foreign sovereignty. The original guidelines said that "the government will oppose the establishment of an independent Palestinian state." At Porat's request, it now states that the government will oppose "any foreign sovereignty west of the Jordan River," in other words, even a confederation with Jordan.

— Sovereignty on the Golan Heights: The Likud suggested the wording "maintaining Israeli sovereignty on the Golan will constitute a basis for any negotiations with Syria." Porat claimed that the wording leaves an opening for concessions in the negotiations, and threatened not to sign the guidelines. In the end, it was agreed that upholding sovereignty on the Golan "will be the basis for an arrangement with Syria." Much tougher wording.

Porat admits that the wording "Israeli sovereignty on the Golan" serves as an opening for the return of part of the Golan, but he believes that anyway there is no Syrian readiness for such a compromise.

— "On condition that the commitments are honored." The original guidelines said that the government will negotiate with the Palestinian Authority with the intent of reaching a permanent arrangement on peace "while assuring" the fulfillment of several commitments. At Porat's insistence, the clause was made more hard line and now says that the negotiations will be held "on condition that the Palestinians fulfill all their commitments fully."

By the way, the term "a permanent peace arrangement" was changed to "a permanent arrangement."

"I believe that the main things we wanted are anchored in the basic guidelines," Porat said. "I am well aware of the government's sensitivity not to invite international scorn. Under those conditions, the guidelines are a very agreeable and honorable achievement. Anybody who can read says they contain a very clear and firm line from the national point of view. There is flexibility in wording but not in content."

On settlements, the NRP made do with the general terminology that "the government will alter the settlement policy, act to consolidate and develop the settlement enterprise in these areas, and allocate the resources necessary for this." Porat says that this clause has the following oral appendix:

— The status of Development Area A will be returned to the settlements in the territories.

— Incentives will be granted to industrial areas in the territories.

— Teachers in the territories will receive incentives given to development areas.

— Preschool fees will be correlated to those in development areas.

Israel: Restrictions Imposed on IAI Civilian Photo Satellites

TA1806174996 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Jun 96 p A8

[Report by Sharon Shade]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Defense Ministry has worked out a plan imposing restrictions on civilian space programs in Israel, in a bid to convince the U.S. Administration to impose similar restrictions on development programs of civilian photo satellites in the United States. The Americans granted permits to a number of U.S. companies to develop civilian photo satellites with a one-meter resolution level. Israel regards this permit as a real threat to its security, because it will make it possible to locate and identify vital targets and installations in its territory with great precision.

In recent contacts between senior defense establishment sources and U.S. Administration representatives it emerged that Israel will agree, among other things, to restrict the photo capabilities of civilian satellites to a resolution level of between 2.8 to 3 meters (which is the size of the smallest object registered by the satellite lens). This proposal counters the plans developed

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by Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] for marketing civilian satellites with better photo capabilities. Approximately three months ago the IAI presented a business plan for launching photo satellites in cooperation with Core Software Technologies.

According to this plan, between 7 and 12 photo satellites would be launched with technology based on the military Ofeq-3 photo satellite. These satellites, however, are slated to be of a more advanced version and with a one-meter resolution level. The defense establishment rejected the IAI plan, which called for using Ofeq-3's photo capabilities for commercial purposes. The IAI was requested to develop and build photo satellites with outside financing. The Defense Ministry spokesman said in reaction: "The Defense Ministry is not preventing Israeli industries from developing an independent civilian satellite capability. The dialogue Israel is maintaining with the Americans on this issue is mostly aimed at minimizing the possible damage that may be caused by covering Israeli territory by civilian photo satellites."

Israel: Police See 'Russian Mafia' Behind Counterfeit Papers Scam

TA2006172696 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dozens of foreign nationals obtained Israeli citizenship thanks to a sophisticated operation carried out by the Russian mafia in Israel. Members of this mafia paid $2,000 to each young Israeli woman who was prepared to travel abroad and enter into a fictitious marriage with a foreign national seeking Israeli citizenship. Here is our police affairs correspondent Ya'el Sternhal's report on the investigation of this case by the International Crime Division of Israel Police:

[Sternhal] The 60 suspects detained and interrogated by the International Crime Division so far are just the tip of the iceberg of the Russian mafia which has been infiltrating Israel in recent years. This ring came under investigation in the wake of information received from European police forces saying that two senior criminals operating abroad had illegally gained Israeli citizenship. A former Interior Ministry staffer detained in the course of the investigation had issued dozens counterfeit documents that enabled mafia bosses to enter Israel. The police further learned that members of the gang used to arrange Israeli citizenship for CIS criminals by using young Israeli women who were induced to enter into fictitious marriages in return for $2,000. In that manner dozens of sham bridegrooms received blue Israeli identity cards.

The gang is also suspected of involvement in a series of murders perpetrated abroad, as well as of every other crime in the book: bribery, passing of counterfeit documents and credit cards, disruption of legal proceedings, illegal confinement, and so forth.

The criminals' efforts to secure entry visas for Israel and Israeli identity cards highlight the fact that today Israel is a target of criminals with worldwide business interests. The investigation of the ring's activities began 10 months ago, but the authorities realize that the ring was not the only one, and that to prevent crime organizations from penetrating and flourishing in this country, the police will need much greater resources as well as supporting legislation.

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Jordan: Officials Cited on Stand at Cairo Summit, Syria

JN2006202496 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20-21 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Nirmin Murad, and Yasir Abu-Hilalah "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordanians share the widespread feeling among fellow Arabs that next week's summit meeting in Cairo will be the first real test of their leaders' resolve to overcome their differences and put their house in order after six years of serious divisions, political estrangement and bickering. But for this goal to be met, Jordanian officials say, the summiteers have to accept that Arab national security is indivisible amongst individual Arab states.

"Arab national security is a collective responsibility of all our states and it is indivisible as such," a senior Jordanian official says. "Jordan is going to the summit with open hearts and minds, and we have one objective to achieve. It is reconciliation and true solidarity among all Arab countries."

For Jordan, the summit poses a special challenge on two fronts: Preserving a collective Arab commitment to the Middle East peace process despite the election of a right-wing government in Israel and ensuring that the summit's deliberations and resolutions "are not geared to serving any single Arab country's interest at the expense of another," the Jordanian officials say.

Jordan "will call for solidarity and all-out reconciliation among the Arab countries, and His Majesty King Husayn will reflect Jordan's true Arab stand as he always did," the senior officials told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

Notwithstanding the Syrian media campaign against Jordan, the official stressed Amman's position "will be fully supportive of Syria's just demand for the restoration of the Golan Heights." Jordan rejects the Israeli Likud Party's view that Syria's regional role is more important than "recovering usurped Syrian lands."

Unidentified senior Syrian officials have recently been accusing Jordan of siding with Israel. In a series of articles published in the London-based AL-HAYAT newspaper the Syrian officials claimed that Jordan was making contacts with Gulf states in a bid to put pressure on Syria to explain its alliance with Iran which Bahrain accuses of being involved in subversion activities in the Gulf emirates.

The senior Jordanian official said, however, Jordan "will not attack any other Arab country unless others attacked first."

"We will respond to accusations that we are going fast (in relations with Israel) by paying others in the same coin. We will respond to whoever tries to enter through the Turkish door by raising the question of Iran's role," he said.

"Arab security is an integral and inseparable one whether it is the security of Syria, Jordan, Palestine or Bahrain."

Another Jordanian official said that Jordan feels that the summit should come up with a "set of principles" that would guide Arab dealings and ensure a policy of noninterference in the internal stability of other states. The official says that the recent series of official visits by King Husayn, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti to various Arab capitals were aimed at ensuring an consensus among Arab states.

Contacts with the U.S., Turkey and European capitals are also aimed at ensuring international backing for this effort.

Jordan, according to the officials, is seeking not only to ensure that there would be no more attempts at destabilising its own internal security, but also that the Middle East peace process would not fall apart in reaction to the election of a Likud government in Israel.

Informed sources confirmed that recent visits by senior Jordanian officials abroad were aimed at ensuring that there is a core group of Arab states who want to see the Cairo summit succeed in its task of bridging Arab differences and is not "hijacked" by Syria, and by extension Iran.

Jordan "supports any endeavour aimed at Arab reconciliation and we welcome any effort at mediation to reconcile King Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad," the official said in response to reports the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is leading such an effort.

The King's visit to the United States, the official said, was one of the most successful so far adding that "King Husayn was accorded an unprecedented welcome."

Jordan does not expect the summit to "result in a surprise with regard to the peace process or Iraq" because the U.S. administration has already told the Egyptian leadership that they expect from Egypt "to play its 'logical' role and that surprises will be unacceptable," the official said. According to the official the summit is expected to end up with a big "yes" for peace regardless of reservations.

Referring to the Palestinians, the official reiterated Jordan's stand by saying the Kingdom will continue to help them regain their rights.

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"We reject the Likud Party's idea of discussing everything except the Palestinian state on the same basis as we reject Israel's policy of discussing everything except the Golan — with Syria."

The Jerusalem Post reported Wednesday:

President al-Asad is brilliant, but he may have miscalculated and lost his chance to recover the Golan Heights. This assessment came from President Clinton in a private White House meeting of a half dozen or so business and civic leaders on Monday.

The participant quoted Mr. Clinton as saying: "Of all the Middle East leaders that I have met, I don't think anyone is smarter — as far as IQ is concerned — than President al-Asad. The man is brilliant. But I can tell you that, during the last three and a half years, nobody has wasted such an IQ on such small issues. During the last three and a half years, he has missed critical opportunities which may never again reappear."

Jordan: Al-Kabariti—No Arab Side Should 'Exploit' Others at Summit

MM2106105996 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 21 Jun 96 pp 1,6

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat in Amman: "Al-Kabariti Tells AL-HAYAH: We Will Not Allow Any Side To Exploit the Arab Position for Its Own Interests"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan yesterday stressed that it will not allow any side to dominate Arab decisions with regard to the peace process in the region, or to impose its own interests at the other Arab sides' expense. Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti told AL-HAYAH that Arab national security is "an indivisible whole" and that the threats to the Gulf Arab states are "not less important than the threats that Mediterranean Arab states are facing."

On the eve of the broadened Arab summit to be held in Cairo tomorrow, he added that "there must be a coordinated Arab position to face common challenges," and stressed the "the need not to allow any side to exploit the Arab position at the expense of the other sides."

Al-Kabariti, who is accompanying the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, to the Cairo summit, explained that Jordan's objective "was and still is to urge frankness, reconciliation, confidence-building between the Arab states, and the attainment of the minimum level of Arab solidarity again." He asked Arab states to show solidarity, "back efforts aimed at achieving more progress in the peace process, build on past achievements, and try to thwart all attempts aimed at wrecking these achievements and hampering the sought-after progress."

The Jordanian prime minister, who also holds the defense and foreign affairs portfolios, added that Jordan "welcomes any effort to clear the air among Arabs, unite Arab ranks, and achieve a return to the policy of cooperation and coordination." He stressed that this cooperation and coordination "must be based on a clear understanding that cooperation and coordination is a two-way street, and not just an attempt to favor any side at the expense of the other side's interests."

Al-Kabariti said that he holds the new Israeli Government "responsible for providing the opportunities to advance the peace process and build on what has been achieved so far."

He added that Jordan "will oppose any move to alter the bases, conditions, terms of reference, or objectives of the peaceful settlement, based on the principle of land-for-peace and the resolutions of international legitimacy."

On the extent of the strain in Jordanian-Syrian relations and the possibility of reaching an understanding on the fringes of the Cairo summit, al-Kabariti said that the Cairo summit will "provide the scope for opening a constructive dialogue to reinforce Arab solidarity based on mutual respect." In a reference to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's efforts to arrange a meeting between King Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad, he added that "Jordan welcomes any effort to clear the air among Arabs, on the basis of equality and mutual understanding."

He explained that "Syria is entitled to shelter behind the Arab position, but it cannot, at the same time, protect the factions and organizations which resort to terrorism and violence to undermine security and stability in the region." He added: "We cannot talk about Arab efforts to boost the peace process while some Arab states shelter and back the forces which want to wreck this process." It was clear that al-Kabariti was referring to the Damascus-based factions, which are committed to wrecking the peace process.

Meanwhile, an authoritative Jordanian source said that his country "will back Syrian demands to recover the occupied Syrian Golan heights, but we will oppose any attempt aiming further than the exchange of land for peace and that could impair the interests of the other Arab sides including Jordan."

He stressed that "Jordan supports any effort at Arab reconciliation, and we welcome any Arab meeting." However, he warned that the Kingdom "will not accept anybody's accusations. We will accuse anyone accusing us of rushing [to normalize with Israel] of heresy and

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hypocrisy. If anyone brings up the subject of Turkey, we will bring up the subject of Iran," and added that "Jordan, Palestine, and Syria are no less important than Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, or Yemen."

Meanwhile, reliable Jordanian sources revealed that the Jordanian delegation to the Cairo summit carries with it a file detailing the terrorist attempts carried out by Damascus-based extremist factions against Jordan. The sources said that, should Syria decide to level accusations at Jordan because of its policies with regard to the peace process and the situation in Iraq, the delegation will reveal details of these attempts and the organizations behind them and their links to the Syrian security organs.

Jordan: AFP Reports Country May Raise Syrian 'Terrorism' at Cairo Summit

NC2006125396 Paris AFP in English 1155 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman, June 20 (AFP) - King Husayn will take to the Cairo summit a file detailing attempted attacks against Jordan by Syrian-based terrorists to counter any Syrian criticism of Amman's peace policy, a Jordanian official said Thursday [20 June].

"King Husayn will only divulge the contents of this file if Syria seeks to criticise Jordan's regional policy or its stance with regard to Iraq," the official, who requested anonymity, told AFP.

However, Jordan's Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said his country would only raise the issue of terrorism in general terms without pinpointing Syria.

"Terrorism will be raised in general terms because it concerns several Arab countries," al-Kabariti said after arriving in Cairo Thursday for the weekend summit. King Husayn was due to travel to Cairo on Friday.

The king accused Syria on June 1 of sending anti-Israeli militants to infiltrate Jordan and carry out attacks against Jordanian targets and Israeli tourists.

Ties between the two neighbours have deteriorated since Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel in October 1994 [passage omitted.

Jordan: Amman Says 'Terrorists' 'Briefed' by Syrian Officers

TA2106105896 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Jun 96 p 4

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian delegation for the Cairo summit, headed by King Husayn, has with it a file of documents containing the full names, addresses, and ID numbers of Palestinian terrorists from the rejectionist organizations who infiltrated from Syria to Jordan over the past several months intending to attack Jordanian officials and Israeli targets in Jordan.

Among other things, the Jordanians are in possession of photographs of Israeli figures, seized from terrorists captured in Jordan. The terrorists were supposed to use the pictures to identify the Israeli figures and assassinate them when they visit Jordan.

The most startling piece of information the Jordanians have is that the terrorists were briefed by Syrian officers before they left Syria. It has been made known that the Jordanians plan to reveal the incriminating information they have if Syria tries to force the Arab leaders to accept its dictates. "We will not allow Syria to eradicate Jordan's role in the peace process, and we will not let it assume a senior and formal role against our will," a senior Jordanian official declared yesterday. "Syria must not be allowed to take over Jordan the way it did in Lebanon."

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Syria: Ba'th Party's Qaddah Meets With Chinese Delegation

JN1906135196 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and head of the Syrian- Chinese Friendship Society, received Comrade Xu Qun, vice chairman of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and head of the Chinese-Syrian Friendship Society, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by comrade Dr. 'Ala'-al-Din 'Abidin, secretary of the Damascus branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and member of the society's executive bureau, and the Chinese ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with friendship and cooperative ties between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Chinese Communist Party and between the people of the two friendly counties. The two sides also discussed the role of the friendship societies in promoting these relations.

Comrade Qaddah reviewed the economic and social achievements in Syria since the start of the Corrective Movement. He spoke about the solid economic and social structure and national unity in Syria under the historic and distinguished leadership of struggler leader comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Qaddah also reviewed the political developments and Syria's position on these developments. He asserted our people's belief in the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace based on the principles of international legitimacy, Security Council Resolutions, and the land-for-peace principle.

Xu Qun reiterated China's support for Arab rights and demands. He expressed admiration for Syria's economic and social achievements and praised the wise and principled leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

Syria: Press on Arab Summit, Netanyahu's Peace Stand

JN2006075396 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0451 GMT 20 Jun 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says that the call for an Arab awakening in light of the new developments in the region is a bright deed to be recorded for the leaders of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, who sensed the danger and sounded the alarm in order to achieve a pan-Arab awakening.

AL-BA'TH adds: When the Damascus tripartite summit, after the Cairo bilateral summit, called for holding an expanded summit in Cairo to discuss the serious dangers which threaten the Arab homeland and all Arabs, this pan-Arab duty was expected to face all kinds of pressures. These pressures are also expected to continue to prevent the Arab leaders from adopting any pan-Arab stand capable of stopping the deterioration and responding to the grave dangers threatening the Arab states' existence and fate.

AL-BA'TH holds the Israeli rulers, from both the Likud and Labor parties, responsible for the impotence and paralysis of the peace process. It says: Washington's support for Rabin and Peres did not help advance the peace process; it wasted time and encouraged those who falsely raised the slogan of peace.

AL-BA'TH adds: The problem is known, and it has become very clear after the arrival of Netanyahu. This problem lies in the fact that the Israeli rulers want peace, land, and the rights of others in the name of peace. This is impossible because it conflicts with the bases of the peace process and international legitimacy and its resolutions.

AL-BA'TH says: Peres and those who came before him from his party tried to conceal the Israeli ambitions of occupation, annexation, and hegemony under the banner of the words of peace which did not mean anything at the talks. However, the Likud leader and Israeli prime minister did not conceal his stands, neither during the election campaign, nor in his official policy statement at the Knesset.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: The Arabs accepted the peace process based on justice, comprehensiveness, respect for international legitimacy, and the restoration of land and rights. They are ready to continue to work for this, and they have the right to meet, to hold consultations, and to cooperate to defend their rights and dignity. He who defends the rights and dignity of his nation must not fear pressures regardless of their size and source. The mere convocation of the Cairo summit implies these meanings and indications irrespective of their expected results.

In its commentary, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the need to hold an Arab summit in Cairo, stressing that when the Arabs call for a summit in response to the needs of pan-Arab solidarity, to show their adherence to the bases of peace, and in order not to give Israel a chance to evade peace and disavow its process, they do not close the door to peace. In fact, they

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are advocates of right and justice. They also reiterate their concern for a just and comprehensive peace which began in Madrid.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Arabs are not ready to give their land as a gift to this or that party. Neither will they relinquish their rights to please the Jewish religious extremists.

The paper adds: While reiterating their adherence to peace as a strategic option, the Arabs expected the international community in general and the United States and Russia, in particular, as the two peace cosponsors, to assume their responsibilities in terms of international legitimacy, its institutions, and efficient forces.

AL-THAWRAH says: Peace is a noble end which serves the objectives of the peoples of the region and the world. Therefore, it must not continue to be mortgaged by the Israeli decisionmaking which has become victim to the extremists.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The peace process, which reflects the will of the international community in establishing a just and comprehensive peace, is based on clear bases and the resolutions of international legitimacy. There is no room for ambiguity here. Everyone knows now that there can be no peace unless it is just and comprehensive. The Arabs adhere to peace in accordance with bases and criterion. The international community should not allow Israel to disrupt the peace process.

In its headline "The Peace Process and the Israeli Conditions," the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the new Israeli prime minister's opening speech in which he called for resuming the peace talks without preconditions.

TISHRIN says: Netanyahu does not only seek to delude people, but also tries to camouflage the Israeli intransigence and rejection of the bases of the peace process.

The paper wonders: How could this call be true at a time when he seeks to eradicate the peace process.

TISHRIN notes: Israel gives itself the right to impose any conditions it wants on the Arabs and denies them their rights, dignity, and the restoration of their territories. What kind of peace does Netanyahu want? What kind of security does he seek for Israel's settlers at the expense of Arab security and the fate and existence of the Arabs?

TISHRIN says: When Israel adopts the policy of expanding settlements and secures resources and funds for this, in accordance with the policy statement of the Likud and the religious parties, then it becomes clear that Israel once again adheres to the peace-for-peace formula, to the policy of throwing dusts in eyes, and to futile negotiations to implement its plans and schemes of devouring more Arab territories and of confiscating the rights of Arabs so that they will have nothing left to demand at the negotiating table.

Syria: Commentary Views Cairo Summit, Netanyahu's Program

JN2006185796 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 20 Jun 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: No bilateral, regional, or international summit has ever stirred up as much debate as the Arab summit that will be held in Cairo next Saturday. [22 June] This debate was not entirely friendly, with some of it going beyond analysis and expectation to become unacceptable interference in Arab affairs. This interference amounted perhaps even to pressure on the Arabs, instructing them on what they should or should not do.

Some parties, for instance, are irresponsibily exploiting the issue of river water of littoral states or international rivers, and at the same time they ask the Arabs not to discuss such subjects at the Cairo summit. Others do not want to hear the sound of the bombs with which the extremist Israeli right is bombarding the peace process. At the same time, they ask the Arabs to wait to discover something that does not exist; namely, the difference between the rigid elections program of the Israeli right and the Israeli Government's program that was declared at the Israeli Knesset.

These parties should understand that the Arab summit is an Arab affair in the first place although it has regional and international dimensions. They should also know that Arab summits are not a new Arab invention, but part of a chain that began with the first Arab summit in 1964, and even before that when it was called the conference of Arab kings and presidents 50 years ago.

It is strange that some of those who raise negative arguments on the Arab summit want the Arabs to view the megalomania currently demonstrated by the Israeli prime minister, as a positive stand. Naturally, we would not be upset if Israel adopts a positive position toward peace. However, what positiveness is there when the new Israeli prime minister declares that peace should be based on what he termed Israel's security without referring to the Arabs' security, although the fundamentals of real peace dictate that peace cannot be realized without equitable [mutaqafi'] balance [mutawazin] and equal [mutasawi] security for all parties, and not for one

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party with the exclusion of others, or at the expense of others' security.

Had the current Israeli Prime minister not been a member of the Israeli delegation led by former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, which participated in the Madrid conference, we would say that he was unaware of the peace process, or that it began in Madrid in 1991, or that this process is based on the land-for-peace principle and the Security Council resolutions which call for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 lines, and that the Madrid conference was an international meeting that was attended by a UN representative and sponsored by the United States and the former Soviet Union, and then the Russian Federation. After all this, and after the Madrid conference was followed by scores of rounds of negotiations in the United States on various tracks, followed by rounds of negotiations in Maryland, the new Israeli prime minister comes to speak about negotiations without prior conditions. This practically means that he wants to erase the accumulated assets of the peace process, despite the stalemate in that process caused by the intransigence of the previous Israeli Governments.

The program of the new Israeli Government, if it is followed, will destroy the peace process. The Israeli prime minister who called for negotiations without prior conditions, as he put it, quickly bombarded the peace process with a host of conditions that destroyed any peace opportunity when he rejected withdrawal from the Golan, the Palestinian state, and withdrawal from the occupied Jerusalem claiming it is the capital of Israel. He also insisted on maintaining the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and continuing the construction of settlements there.

The Israeli prime minister's conditions are not his elections program, which some parties ask the Arabs to distinguish from his government program, but are the very program of the Israeli Government for the next four years. It is difficult to compare the program of the new Israeli Government, which is opposed to the peace process, with the Syrian position, which protected the peace process as the responsible world parties and figures admitted. The Syrian position protected the peace process from collapse as a result of the Israeli intransigence.

The summit that will be held next Saturday will discuss the subjects that the Arab citizens want it to discuss. This summit will not be held in the dark but in broad daylight. It will be held on the basis of Arab rights and interests that no party in this world can claim that they conflict with the international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially the resolutions which are binding on Israel, and which call for full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Syria: Press Highlights Importance of Cairo Summit

JN2106091496 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jun 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Tomorrow's Summit Is a New Leaf in Arab History," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial today: Observers agree that the Arab summit that will open in Egypt tomorrow is the most important summit in Arab history and that its results must confront the challenges posed to a nation with threatened existence and destiny.

AL-BA'TH stresses that the Cairo summit is the outcome of the Damascus tripartite summit, which was held to face the impending dangers from all directions, starting with Netanyahu's assumption of power in Israel against the backdrop of fanaticism, intransigence, and rejection of the bases and principles of the entire peace process, up to the escalating pressures against Syria in particular and all Arabs in general.

AL-BA'TH notes that the successive developments and events in the region over the past few months were aimed against the Arabs without exception. Those developments resulted in misleading media attempts and provocative moves whose objective was to heighten the tension which prevailed in the region during the brutal aggression against Lebanon, which was crowned with the Qana massacre.

AL-BA'TH remarks that the mere convocation of the Arab summit is an extremely important event drawing extensive popular interest. The paper says: As the convocation of the summit means that Arab leaders are aware of the threats to the Arab nation, the proposed agenda requires arriving at effective resolutions stressing pan-Arab principles and putting an end to the Israeli intransigence and penetrations of Arab ranks. Consequently, this will lead to arriving at a unified position proving to the entire world that we are a nation that does not accept humiliation and does not yield to pressures and provocations, a nation that seeks to maintain its existence, restore its rights, and maintain its dignity.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: Our masses throughout the Arab world pin great hopes on the Cairo summit to restore their self-confidence, provide with extra power for facing up to the threats, and open a new leaf in Arab history marked by unified positions and true solidarity.

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On the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says in one of its comments: The Arab nation has never faced in old or recent history a severer onslaught or a more brutal challenge than the current one. Conspiracies against the pan-Arab future and existence are more serious than some may imagine. Hence, the importance of the expanded Arab summit for which preparations have been completed in Cairo. Hence also the importance of emerging with a unified position that transcends differences and divisions that are wanted to be perpetuated among the sons of the one Arab nation, a position that can face up to the challenges.

AL-THAWRAH adds: So much is required from the Cairo summit. It is required to achieve more than just the minimum level of solidarity and unity of stands. It is required to return to genuine pan-Arab stands and the spirit of commitment to the supreme pan-Arab interests and to the conventions and institutions of pan-Arab action. It is required to restore balance and to head toward the future with a vigor capable of affecting the course of events and dealing with, responding to, and settling circumstances and developments in the interest of the Arab nation and its crucial battles.

The paper says: The Arab summit is required to halt the state of decay and deterioration. It should activate joint Arab action, stress pan-Arab commitments, and confront deviations and attempts to obstruct the peace process. To achieve this, the summit must lay down a pan-Arab strategy to rectify the course of events and secure the required momentum to push this process toward its desired objective, represented by the achievement of a just, comprehensive peace based on the implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the UN Security Council. The summit must make Israel and the world understand that peace, which the Arabs view as a strategic option, will be a hollow peace with no chance of survival unless it is based on justice, balance, equal security, and Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

In another comment, AL-THAWRAH says that the Cairo summit is an urgent pan-Arab need. Because the Cairo summit seeks a just, comprehensive peace based on the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the U.S. land-for-peace formula, any attempt to undermine the summit is an act against genuine peace and against the supreme Arab interests.

AL-THAWRAH indicates that the Arabs have frequently announced their definite and declared commitment to those bases. Meanwhile, Israel still insists on rejecting them. As they meet at the summit level in Cairo tomorrow, the Arabs seek a just, comprehensive peace and building a unified Arab position in the face of the posed challenges and expected possibilities that can be imposed by the developments of events, especially if the Israel continues to refuse to respond to the bases of the required peace.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The Arab summit should lay down the basis of a comprehensive Arab strategy that takes into consideration in the first place the Arab interest in a just, comprehensive peace and plays a role in rallying the Arab nation's energies and resources to serve the Arab interests, achieve the objectives of Arab struggle, and ensure a secure future for the children of this nation.

Syria: Paper Astonished at Jordanian Accusations of 'Terrorism'

JN2006115596 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 20 Jun (SANA) — In a political analysis today, the newspaper TISHRIN expressed its astonishment at the fact that some Jordanian voices — sometimes at the highest echelon — repeat the Israeli tune of accusing Syria of terrorism at a time when the Arabs are getting ready for an expanded summit in Cairo to instill a spirit of solidarity into Arab relations and to confront the challenges imposed by the Likud program.

The paper notes: These voices claimed that tens of persons have infiltrated from Syria to carry out bombings and assassinations in Jordan. In fact, they claim that all infiltrators have been arrested. At the same time, the Palestinian sides [the Palestinian organizations in Syria] have denied these allegations and asked the Jordanian authorities to provide evidence.

The paper says: Syria does not accept stooping to the level of these practices. It has previously rejected and still rejects all actions which harm Jordan and its citizens. This stand is dictated by pan-Arab and moral considerations which spring from the nature of the Syrian policy of uniting the Arabs and mobilizing their resources against the main enemy threatening the Arab nation and its future.

The paper adds: What attracts attention is that some Jordanian officials' slanders which are repeated by news media there are in harmony with the fierce campaign launched by the circles of World Zionism and those cooperating with them against Syria, as well as with the Turkish authorities' claims against Damascus.

The paper says: Insistence on disseminating this false news, and some Jordanian sides' efforts to include a clause on Arab terrorism on the agenda of the Arab summit to be held in Cairo within the next few days,

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are exposed attempts to prevent the Arab summit from achieving its main objective of adopting a unified stand, and at disrupting rapprochement among the Arab states.

The paper says: These sides had better shed light on the Israeli terrorism which hurts the Palestinian people every day through siege, repression, starvation, and humiliation.

The paper adds: After the Likud government renounced the principles of peace with the Arabs, the Jordanian authorities did not relinquish their enthusiasm toward normalization with Israel. In fact, the Jordanian statements seek to disrupt the Arab efforts and to prevent the Arabs from adopting a unified stand toward Israel's intransigence, hostility to the Arabs, and rejection of all the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The paper adds: Syria has announced its determination to achieve Arab solidarity and to tackle all problems which obstruct efforts to clear Arab atmosphere. Damascus will not be dragged into side battles which exhaust its efforts to secure the pillars of strength, pride, and dignity for all Arabs, wrist, their legitimate rights, protect their existence, and defend their interests.

Concluding its analysis, TISHRIN says: Jordan's interests lie in rapprochement with its brothers, not in fragmenting relations of brotherhood with them, or in giving preference to its relations with Israel over those with the Arabs. We really hope that the Jordanian policy will join the current attempts to achieve reconciliation among the states of the one Arab nation, and that Jordanian authorities will use their experience in the service of the Arabs, pride, and dignity.

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Afghanistan

Afghanistan: President Rabbani Reiterates Call For Peace

LD2006201896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has once again called on political groups and parties to work toward ending the fighting in Afghanistan.

Meeting the delegates from Laghman, Paktia, and Paktika Provinces in Kabul, he said on 19 June that the Muslim people of Afghanistan were tired of the fighting. He would resolutely support their need to restore peace and stability in the country.

Drawing attention to the talks between the government and the opposition group, he called on those groups who have not yet agreed to hold talks to choose the path of peace and to end the fighting and bloodshed in the country.

The territorial integrity, independence, and national sovereignty slogan can become a common slogan for all groups.

Afghanistan: Muslim Countries Willing To Reopen Embassies in Kabul

LD2106093896 Tehran IRNA in English 0846 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, June 21, IRNA — An Afghan foreign ministry source said here Thursday [20 June] that many Muslim governments had indicated their willigness to re-open their embassies in Kabul.

The source mentioned Egypt, Sudan, Nepal, Malaysia and Bangladesh among these countries. He said the Afghan government had assured those governments of improving safety and security conditions in Afghanistan and that measures had been undertaken for the purpose.

In addition, certain international organizations among them the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had also intimated their willingness to return their bases to Kabul.

Iranian embassy is now the only foreign diplomatic representation at ambassadorial level here , while Turkey, India and Indonesia, too, have retained their embassies in the city at the charge d'affaires level. Over the past four years Iran's embassy has remained ceaselessly open in the face of continuing factional battles between rival groups in the country.

Most international agencies in Afghanistan, however, are still headquartered in Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar.

Afghanistan: Paper Says Accord Between Parties Good for Country

LD2006201196 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The accord between the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] of Afghanistan is not for the purpose of forming a united front against any group.

This point was made during an interview with a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent by Alhaj Kashmir Khan Rahmatyar, commander of the Central Army No. 1 Corps of the Hezb-e Eslami. He said: In hatching intrigues and conspiracies against the mojahedin, the enemies of Islam have been working for the destruction of the country. In order to foil these conspiracies, the Hezb-e Eslami and Jam'iyat-e Eslami began talks and reached an agreement.

Kashmir Khan said: When the agreement between the Hezb-e Eslami and Jam'iyat-e Eslami was concluded in Mahipar, the Taleban group embarked on a military operation in the area of Khord Kabul [east of Kabul city] claiming that the Hezb-e Eslami's mojahedin had launched an attack on them. Consequently the Hezb-e Eslami was forced to take action. With the blessing of God, all lost areas were recaptured within a day.

Kashmir Khan added: At the present time a fraternal atmosphere is prevailing between the mojahedin of the Hezb-e Eslami and Jam'iyat-e Eslami. We give assurance to the nation that the unity between the Hezb-e Eslami and Jam'iyat-e Eslami will soon lead to the establishment of an Islamic and acceptable government in the country.

In reply to a statement that the enemies of Islam, to prevent the setting up of an Islamic government and to create a barrier to the restoration of peace, have attempted forming a united front since the accord between the Hezb-e Eslami and Jam'iyat-e Eslami, Kashmir Khan said: We give assurance to the Muslim nation of Afghanistan that in order to foil such conspiracies, the two powerful parties of Hezb-e Eslami and Jam'iyat-e Eslami have taken necessary measures. These conspiracies will have no effect on the unity of the Hezb-e Eslami and Jam'iyat-e Eslami.

Regarding the West's efforts to bring Zahir Shah back to power, Kashmir Khan said: Without the Jihadi personalities no power can bring anybody to power in Afghanistan. Their effort will fail to bring any satisfactory result.

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Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Partial Repolling Results; Awami League Wins 10 More Seats

BK1906161796 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 19 Jun 96

[FBIS Summary] This newscast carries two reports on the repolling carried out today in 27 constituencies.

The first report states: "Results of 27 [as heard] constituencies of the parliament where elections were postponed have been announced.

"The unofficially elected candidates of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] are: Retired Major General Akbar Hossain, Comilla-8; Giasuddin Kader Chowdhury, Chittagong-6; Haji Mohammad Shahjahan, Chittagong-11; Zafarul Islam Chowdhury, Chittagong-15; Harunur Rashid, Brahmambaria-3; Mohammad Obaidur Rahman, Faridpur-2; HasiburRahman Sajal, Serajganj-7; Engineer Mazurul Hassan Montu, Comilla-4; and B.M. Fazlul Huq of BNP, Tangail-3.

"The unofficially elected candidates of the Awami League [AL] are Mohammad Emdadul Huq Bhuiyan, Narayanganj-2; Mohammad Nuruddin Hamid, [name of constituency indistinct]; Mohammad Haji Rashed Mosharraf, Jamilpur-3; Advocate Mohammad Ali Ashraf, Comilla-6; Syed Shamsul Mustafa Kamal, Comilla-9; Mohammad Abdul Hasnat, Comilla-7; Mohammad Mujibul Huq, Comilla-12; Jainal Abedin Hazari, Feni-2; Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, Sylhet-1; and A.S.M. Abdur Rab, Patuakhali-2.

"The unofficially elected candidates of the Jatiya Party are Abdul Matin Akhand, [name of constituency indistinct]; and Golam Farooq Sabur, Barisal-2.

"The results of 19 out of a total of 27 constituencies have been received so far. In these constituencies, the AL has won nine seats, the BNP has won eight seats, and the Jatiya Party has received two seats."

Later in the same cast it is announced: "One more election result. Hafiz Ahmed Mazumdar of the AL has been declared elected from the Sylhet-5 constituency. Jamaat-i-Islami candidate Mohammad Fariduddin Chowdhury had secured the second position in this constituency."

Bangladesh: Jamaat Leader Alleges 'Massive Rigging' in Elections

BK2006161796 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Jun 96 p 1

[By Staff Correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jamaat-i-Islami Bangladesh on Saturday [15 June] alleged massive rigging and irregularities in June 12 election and said that national and international conspiracy, partisan role of Election Commission officials and influence of black money were the causes for its debacle in the polls.

Addressing a Press conference at the party's Maghbazar office, Jamaat-i-Islami Secretary General Moulana Matiur Rahman Nizami said that free and fair elections were held only in a few centres because the total administrative machinery engaged in conducting the election was widely influenced by politics.

"We expected a '91 style election but we can not realise the extent of bureaucratic conspiracy that had played a significant role in defeating Jamaat candidates", he alleged.

Moulana Nizami said that Jamaat had become the victim of manifold conspiracy. A section of newspapers were engaged in spreading propaganda against Jamaat and some NGOs [nongovernment organizations] including BRAC [Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee], Grameen Bank and ASA [expansion unknown] carried out an anti-Jamaat campaign in a planned way in constituencies where Jamaat candidates were more strong, he added.

Defending the deteriorating position in June 12 polls, Nizami said "fluctuation in politics is common phenomenon specially for a ideology-based party like Jamaat-i-Islami".

While explaining the party's debacle in the election, Jamaat Secretary General said "we were defeated not by vote but by black money holders, conspirators and massive rigging".

Moulana Nizami bitterly criticised the civil administration for its failure in maintaining law and order on the election day and said that the silent role of civil administration had paved the way for capturing the polling centres by influential political party workers. In this context, he said the purposes of deployment of Army were foiled because they did not perform any duty without the invitation of civil administration.

Replying to a question, Nizami said "we have taken election results for the party as a challenge and it is our belief that the situation would dramatically be changed if we could reach our programme to the countrymen properly".

The Press briefing was attended, among others, by Makbul Ahmed, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahidi, Kamruzzaman and Abdul Kader Mollah.

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Bangladesh: AL Leader Meets Journalists, Views Political Situation

BK2006161696 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 16 Jun 96 pp 1, 11

[By staff reporter]

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking to newsmen at the VIP lounge of the National Press Club yesterday, Awami League [AL] President Sheikh Hasina said that journalists had played an important role in establishing democracy and protecting the rights of the people in the past. She expressed the hope that they will also continue to play this role in the future. The Awami League leader said: We will be happy if journalists criticize our work after we attain power. From this criticism, however bitter and annoying it may be, we can discern the proper path for resolving problems. At the same time, she appealed for adherence to the principles of truth and objectivity in reporting any event. The Awami League leader said: The nation hopes that you will refrain from writing false and biased news. She added that the truth is never deceptive.

Sheikh Hasina made an informal visit to the National Press Club yesterday and met with journalists. She also replied to various questions from journalists on the prevailing political situation. Sheikh Hasina was in a cheerful mood and exchanged views freely with the journalists. She said: We want the cooperation of all political parties in running the state's affairs. It is also desirable for journalists to extend their cooperation to us in our task.

Earlier, on her arrival at the National Press Club, Sheikh Hasina was warmly greeted by the journalists and was accorded a reception by the club's leaders. Sheikh Hasina congratulated the journalists for playing a courageous role during the last antigovernment movement. Several local and foreign journalists were present at this meeting with Sheikh Hasina.

The meeting was also attended by other Awami League leaders, including: Awami League Presidium member Abdus Samad Azad; Presidium member Abdul Mannan; General Secretary Zillur Rahman; Presidium member Abdul Momin; Presidium member Abdur Razzak; Presidium member Tofael Ahmed; S.A.M.S. Kibria; Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif; Professor Abu Sayeed; Dr. Mustafa Jalal Mohiuddin; Advocate Abdul Mannan; Sheikh Fazlul Karim Salim; Alhaj Moqbul Hussain; Kazi Iqbal Hussain; Enamul Haq Shamim, president of the Awami League student front; former student leader S.M. Kamal Hussain; Ashim Kumar Ukil; and Afzal Hussain.

In response to questions from journalists, Sheikh Hasina said her party will seek not only the support of the political parties that were its partners in the antigovernment movement but also the support of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] in running the affairs of the state and in the development of the country. Sheikh Hasina said our first and foremost task after forming the government will be free the country from terrorism. Our main task will be to free the country of corruption and irregularities.

Responding to a question, she said: We are waiting for a call from the president to form the government. She expressed the hope that the president will ask them to form the government after the official announcement by the Election Commission of all the election results. Sheikh Hasina urged her party workers, supporters, and the people not to become impatient when faced with any provocation. She urged them to have patience for a few more days and added that God also likes those who have patience. Sheikh Hasina urged them to proceed cautiously.

Replying to another question, Sheikh Hasina said: We will build up friendly relations will all countries. Our relationship with our neighboring country [India] will be based on friendship.

In response to another question, Sheikh Hasina said: We want to establish the rule of law in all spheres. She said the Awami League does not do politics by depending on terrorists and will not do so in future as well. She said there will be no corruption and terrorism if steps are taken to make the wages of the police force consistent with the current economic situation. She added that they will work sincerely if this is done.

Sheikh Hasina said that no steps were taken for the development of the country or for improving the standard of living of the people during the previous government's rule. We want to work for the people's prosperity. She said: We do not want to make pledges only and to issue fiery statements like the BNP did. We really want to work for the people. We want to work on the basis of a national consensus in the country's greater interest. Sheikh Hasina added: We will formulate laws to prevent the repression of women.

Bangladesh: President, 'Arafat Discuss Ties, Middle East Peace Process

BK2006155396 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is now in Dhaka on a brief visit to Bangladesh. He was met at the airport by Chief Adviser Mohammad

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Habibur Rahman. Among others present at the airport to greet the Palestinian leader were the ambassador of Palestine and several senior officials of the Bangladesh Government. Immediately after his arrival, the Palestinian president drove to the President House in a ceremonial motorcade and met with President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

Welcoming Mr. 'Arafat, President Biswas said that the government and the people of Bangladesh have total and unceasing support for the greater solidarity of the Palestinian state and the Islamic community. President Biswas said after the recent elections in Israel, the Arab world should now forge greater unity to face the new challenge to the dispute.

Expressing satisfaction, President 'Arafat said that [words indistinct] the international community at the Madrid Conference expressed their total support for the peace process and for a comprehensive and permanent settlement of all problems of the Middle East. President 'Arafat thanked President Biswas for giving a cordial reception to him and the members of his entourage. Senior military and civil officials were also present on the occasion.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina called on the Palestinian leader this evening. Khaleda Zia, chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, also met President Yasir 'Arafat.

India

India: Foreign Secretary Announces New Delhi's Rejection of CTBT

BK2006114496 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has rejected the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT]. This was announced by the foreign secretary, Mr. Salman Haider, in New Delhi today. He told newsmen that the Indian representative disclosed the government's decision on the issue at the ongoing Geneva talks. Pointing out several loopholes in the CTBT draft, he said India wants a truly comprehensive system, which is in tune with New Delhi's stand on complete disarmament. He said there is a national consensus on the issue.

Replying to a question on the ramification of not signing the treaty, the foreign secretary said India has found sympathetic response from the developing countries. He, however, clarified that India will not disengage itself from the talks.

India: Officials Comment on Rejection of CTBT

BK2106043296 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has rejected the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT]. This was announced by the foreign secretary, Mr. Salman Haider, in New Delhi today. He told newsmen that the Indian representative disclosed the government's decision on the issue at the ongoing Geneva talks. Pointing out several loopholes in the CTBT draft, he said India wants a truly comprehensive system which is in tune with New Delhi's stand on complete disarmament. Ravi Ramakrishna reports:

[Begin recording] [Ramakrishna] India considers the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to be awfully inadequate and discriminatory favoring the nuclear haves. The treaty in its present form would not yield to universal nuclear disarmament. It would instead help clandestine tests by the nuclear powers. It also feels that the treaty would not protect its national interests. India's stand was made known to the world at the ongoing Geneva conference.

[Arundhati Ghose, India's representative at Geneva conference — name identified from screen caption] Such a treaty is not conceived as a measure toward universal nuclear disarmament and is not in India's national security interests. India, therefore, cannot subscribe to it in its present form.

[Ramakrishna] While making a similar announcement in the capital, the foreign secretary said India will continue to participate in the conference to bring home its point of view.

[Salman Haider] We support a genuinely comprehensive CTBT. But we cannot accept a CTBT with loopholes that could permit the continued development and refining of nuclear arsenals.

[Unidentified Correspondent] Is India going to disengage itself from the talks? Are you going to continue negotiations?

[Haider] No, India will not. It will not. There is no walkout from the talks. We are not disengaging.

[Ramakrishna] India contends that the proposed treaty is incomprehensive as it permits the high-tech computer-based laboratory simulation tests.

[Unidentified Correspondent] You said that the treaty is not comprehensive. What exactly do you mean when you say that it is not comprehensive?

[Foreign Minister I.K. Gujral] It does not really ban tests. It bans the nuclear weapon tests. At the same time,

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new technologies are evolved where the weapons can be made more sophisticated by computers and by other methods. It does not deal with those. Similarly, there are many other leaks that have been provided within the treaty itself which we have pointed out. This may not be a time for me to go into details. But, in our deliberations and in our statement in Geneva, we have pointed those out. For two and half years we have been saying these things, that, please for God sake, try to move the world in a direction where there are no more any nuclear weapons.

[Ramakrishna] It is the first major decision by the new government based on national consensus to protect the country's interests. India's renouncement of the treaty in its present form would enable it to keep its nuclear options open based on its national security perception.

[Gujral] So, we have preserved our nuclear option. We have said that India's national security needs will be assessed from time to time. That is what a nuclear option means, that whatever we feel our defense requires, whenever we feel something has to be done, we will do accordingly. So, therefore, from time to time, we go on evaluating our security needs, the threat perceptions and respond accordingly. [end recording]

India: CPI-M Welcomes Government Decision Not To Sign CTBT

BK2106032896 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has welcomed the government's decision not to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty — the CTBT — in its present form. The CPI-M politburo member, Mr. Sitaram Yechoori, said that while the Left parties press for nuclear disarmament on a global scale, they are against the biased and discriminatory manner in which the nuclear powers sought to put pressure on other nations. Under present circumstances, India must keep its nuclear options open. [passage omitted]

India: Government Reportedly Knew About Pakistani Missiles '6 Months Ago'

BK2006053296 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 18 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Srinjoy Chowdhury]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Indian government knew at least six months ago that Pakistan had deployed the M-11 surface-to-surface missile with India as the target.

Despite having conclusive proof of the deployment, the government did not take the nation into confidence.

Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, the then Prime Minister, informed the parliamentary standing committee on defence in January that the Pakistan Prime Minister had assured him the weapons would not be deployed.

The draft sixth report of the standing committee on defence says, "Pakistan has already deployed the M-11 surface-to-surface missiles procured from China and the shorter-range Hatf-I and Hatf-II missiles in the vicinity of its border with India." The M-11 has a range of about 250 km and can carry a 500-kg explosive.

The report, circulated in January, was written in December last year. This paragraph (3.29) and other "sensitive" sections were deleted from the final report released on February 28 this year.

A committee member said the decision to delete sections critical of China and Pakistan so as not to ruffle feathers was taken at the last standing committee meeting, chaired by Mr Sharad Dighe, former Congress MP.

The missiles, which can carry nuclear warheads, were supplied to Pakistan in 1993 violating the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). But the Pakistan government had declared the 30 M-11s were still in their crates at the Sargodha missile base.

The news about the M-11 deployment hit headlines only on June 13 after an American newspaper "broke" the story based on an intelligence report. After the report appeared, the Indian government merely said it needed verification. Statements about Pakistan acquiring a "distinct edge over India" were also kept out of the final report.

After consulting senior defence ministry officials, the committee noted the arms received by Pakistan after the one-time waiver of the Pressler Amendment "has altered the current regional military balance in Pakistan's favour."

It added that once Pakistan received all the weapons worth $368 million, the implications would be "grim for India."

India: V.P. Singh Interviewed on Political Issues

BK2006131896 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 9 Jun 96 p 16

[Interview with V.P. Singh, former Indian Prime Minister and current 'de facto' head of United Front government, by Sukhmani Singh; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Sukhmani Singh] You have been repeatedly saying that you will stay out of active politics till November 1999. What is so sacred about that date?

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[V.P. Singh] The media has been wrongly commenting that I have taken sanyaas [retirement from politics]. I never said I would take sanyaas. Earlier I thought I would tone down my political activities because of my ill-health and my interest in doing some creative activity in the arts. But then when we lost in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and the press was projecting a negative image of Bihar and Western UP [Uttar Pradesh]. And I thought people would say that I withdrew from the party when the times were bad. So I restrained myself.

I said I will participate in elections so it will not be said that I have abandoned the party. And when there are good times, I will make my announcement. So after we won in Andhra and Karnataka, I said for five years I will not be contesting elections. But I said I will participate in the elections. I have done that till the conclusion of the elections, namely the formation of government. I took interest up to that point. I will certainly not contest elections till 1999.

But that does not mean that in matters of public interest I will not express my views. If I say anything people call me self-righteous. Does that mean that it is the monopoly of the politician?

[S. Singh] But you played an important role in bringing the different parties together and cementing the new government.

[V.P. Singh] Everyone contributed, it cannot be single-handed. Everybody got into the act-the regional parties, Chandrababu, Mahantaji. They had a very positive attitude.

[S. Singh] Will you advise the new government on matters of policy?

[V.P. Singh] I don't see myself in that role. But certainly I can advise them in matters of public interest like national security or foreign policy or farmers issues or youth issues or gender justice or say Kashmir, Punjab, Assam. My commitment to the country is not diluted because I'm not fighting elections. Of course the people who are running the government are mature people, they don't need my advice. But generally one can assist them and draw attention to these issues.

[S. Singh] So you played a key role in the formulation of the minimum economic programme...

[V.P. Singh] We interacted with each other on economic policies and various issues, from the very beginning. People were commenting that we didn't have a policy, not realising that at that very time we were consulting each other, giving space, trying to formulate. So the real work was being done all the time. And finally it has resulted in a very good document, which has been very well received by industry and the people at large.

[S. Singh] How do you envisage the implementation of the Sarlaria Committee report? Won't it be an uphill task?

[V.P. Singh] I don't think it will be difficult because there is a general consensus on it. I think even the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] will not oppose it. Regarding de-centralisation; there will be consultations which will form the basis of the changes.

[S. Singh] Are you in favour of a completely federal structure? Do you think India is ready for it?

[V.P. Singh] I don't believe in anything totally black and white — I don't believe in anything total, reality is something different. We have to achieve a balance, not go to extremes. Yes we want to delegate more power to the states, but at the same time there are states which have very little resources-like the NorthEast. If we totally de-centralise our resources, these states will be crippled by lack of funds.

Other states will not part with budgets for them. You need to give money to states that are backward and don't have resources. At the same time, you have to decentralise to ensure that even to install a hand-pump, a paper does not have to be signed by the Centre. I don't believe in dogma.

[S. Singh] Are you in favour of granting pre 1953 status to Kashmir as Farooq Abducts has been demanding? Do you think that would solve the Kashmir problem?

[V.P. Singh] Pre fixed ideas don't work, it is only dialogue-any dialogue to come to an agreement, a negotiated settlement. So keep channels open, keep minds opens I think that's the proper way to start. Yes, something concrete has to be done, but the consensus has to be acceptable to the people of Kashmir as well as to the parties of India. Any change in Kashmir without a national political consensus is not possible-one has to be realistic. If you go with pregiven formulas, you might not succeed. So one has to explore the whole gamut of possibilities and then decide.

[S. Singh] In the process of exploring possibilities, will the state's present administrative set-up be changed?

[V.P. Singh] I'm not answering on behalf of the government.

[S. Singh] What is your personal opinion?

[V.P. Singh] I think there should be a dialogue with a cross-section of people in Kashmir and then we should see what is possible by consensus, or what political

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parties can agree upon. I think that will be the solution that the new government will push for.

[S. Singh] People have commented that Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's recent offer of talks is not genuine and sincere and that she has a hidden agenda. Your comments:

[V.P. Singh] Well any agenda cannot be hidden for long. I think we should avail of this offer, we should not reject it.

[S. Singh] You enjoy a special rapport with Ms Bhutto. So will you make a personal attempt to improve Indo-Pak relations?

[V.P. Singh] It is up to the two governments to resolve it; But if there is any contribution I can make, I will not hesitate to do so.

[S. Singh] You had earlier commented that Narasima Rao's failing was that he was not able to click with the masses. Do you think Deve Gowda will be able to do that?

[V.P. Singh] Yes, I'm very confident, because we have seen how he has improved upon his performance in Karnataka. The way he has been operating now, he has endeared himself to a cross-section of people. He is a person who can listen to the views of all his colleagues, so I think his personality is tailor made to lead a coalition.

[S. Singh] What do you think are his greatest assets?

[V.P. Singh] Firstly, I think he is a very practical person, and secondly, he is humble enough not to allow pride to come in his way, so he can listen to everyone and carry them with him. Of course, as you know, he is a farmer-yet he has a liberal approach towards industrialization.

Also he has taken cognisance of the poorer sections of society. So he is a well-rounded personality.

[S. Singh] Earlier you were constantly hanging your opinion on who would make a suitable Prime Minister. First you recommended Ram Vilas Paswan. Then at a rally in Patna, you brought up Laloo Prasad Yadav's name. Why this change of stand?

[V.P. Singh] I have not been changing my mind.People have been asking me about specific names. The press has been changing the names. What I said was that these are the names that are in circulation, that there are several people who can take this responsibility. It depends on who is a consensus candidate.

[S. Singh] While you have been asserting that the hawala [illegal money transfer scandal] and Bofors investigations should be pursued, you have conveniently omitted to mention the colossal Rs[rupees] 2000 crore fodder saw in Bihar. Why these double standards?

[V.P. Singh] I have not been asserting any thing, the press has been talking. They are very clever, they ask what I will do about a specific case. The press did not ask me about this case. The point about corruption is general, there's no point in commenting on this or that case. We can only talk about a general policy in investigating all such cases-setting up a Lokpal etc. About specific cases,the law has to take its course. We all can't assume the role of the judge.

[S. Singh] On the one hand, talk about a Lokpal, yet a scam-tainted Minister like S.R. Bommai has been inducted into the Cabinet. Why?

[V.P. Singh] I'm not going into specific cases. I always talk in general. I've given up party politics. Don't draw me into party or government politics. Our general stand has been that the law must take its course.

[S. Singh] You had recently commented that Narsimha Rao would be bringing a moneyfesto into play to buy up MPs. Do you sincerely feel that he will cease to do that now?

[V.P. Singh] (Gets irritated) No specifics. How can I say that, it has not taken place, so how should I say that.

[S. Singh] How do you like being called a Kingmaker?

[V.P. Singh] It is not correct at all.

India: Dismissed Official on Nuclear Safety Problems

BK2006164596 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Jun 96 p 18

[Interview with A. Gopalakrishnan, former chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, by correspondent S. Balakrishnan; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Saturday [15 June] at 8 p.m., a peon from the department of atomic energy (DAE) rang the bell at the house of the chairman, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), A Gopalakrishnan (58), in south Mumbai and delivered a letter. Signed by a deputy secretary the missive informed the brilliant scientist that his three year contract was not being renewed and that on Monday [17 June] he should hand over charge to the chairman of the safety review committee of operating plants S Vasanthkumar.

Mr Gopalakrishnan, who has an impressive academic track record including a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering awarded by the University of California left a lucrative job in the United States in 1976 to come to India. He has

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held several important responsibilities in the scientific establishment in both the United Stares and India. He had been with the AERB for six years as a member and three years as chairman. In a candid interview given to S Balakrishnan he explains the background to his exit.

[Balakrishnan] Your three-year contract with the department of atomic energy ended on Saturday. The DAE has exercised its right not to renew your contract. Why should it be a matter of controversy?

[Gopalakrishnan] The government is under no obligation to renew my contract. I have no quarrel on this score. But, what I resent is the manner in which the matter was handled by the DAE. I am of the rank of a secretary. The letter received by me was signed by a deputy secretary without even indicating whether he had the authority of the chairman or some other senior official. The process of finding a replacement for me should have been initiated at least three months ago given the important nature of the post. Instead, the Atomic Energy Commission met on Saturday and the same day I was informed of its decision not to renew my contract.

[Balakrishnan] Why exactly do you think the DAE has given you a rough treatment?

[Gopalakrishnan] My problem is that I was honest to my job. Even though the AERB is, really speaking, only an appendage of the DAE, I tried to invest it with a certain amount of objectivity and independence. This was necessary if the AERB is to perform the role which it is supposed to play.

My straight-forward attitude was not liked by the top bosses of the establishment. The DAE wants the government and the people to believe that all is well with our nuclear installations. I have documentary evidence to prove that this is not so. There is a need for a national debate. My only concern was to ensure the safety of the employees and the people at large.

[Balakrishnan] Which are the unsafe nuclear installations in the country?

[Gopalakrishnan] The atomic power plants at Rajasthan, Tarapur and Madras have specific safety deficiencies. These need to be attended to urgently. In the rest of the world plants of Tarapur's vintage have been scrapped. I am not for the shutting down of the plant. But, I want the safety deficiencies to be rectified expeditiously.

Apart from this, the safety status of some of DAE's nuclear installations should be a matter of deep concern to everybody. The AERB recently documented more than 130 safety issues in these installations which call for urgent corrective action. Lakhs of litres of radioactive fluids are stored at Trombay and Tarapur in tanks with welding deficiencies. Old pipes carry radioactive material. The AERB has recommended the replacement of these pipes and tanks. It is yet to get a response.

Of the 130 safety issues, 25 relate to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. I have been in correspondence with the BARC since November, 1995, but in vain. The impact on the environment of a possible accident at the Dhruva reactor in Trombay has not been studied. This should be done in the interest of the safety of the employees residing in BARC quarters and people staying in its vicinity. I am disgusted with the stonewalling tactics of the DAE and the disgraceful stance adopted by a senior official of this organisation.

[Balakrishnan] Don't you think that a element of secrecy is inevitable in any nuclear establishment?

[Gopalakrishnan] I am not at all questioning that. I am in full concurrence with the nation's nuclear policy. But there is no need for any secrecy when you are operating a nuclear power plant. The people have a right to know. The DAE should be made accountable to the government and the people.

[Balakrishnan] Can this accountability be ensured by separating the AERB from the DAE?

[Gopalakrishnan] To a substantial extent this can be done. At present the AERB is a subordinate organisation of the DAE which supposed to play the role of a watchdog in safety matters. This is absurd. The AERB should be an independent organisation reporting to the Cabinet Secretariat or the Prime Minister's Office. This is the situation prevailing in the United States and several other countries.

[Balakrishnan] You give the impression that safety aspects are not at present given the weight age they deserve.

[Gopalakrishnan] The safety review report prepared by the AERB is based on internal documents already available in the nuclear establishment and a close study of prevailing practices at our nuclear installations. I have not stated anything out of my imagination. But the general attitude of the top bosses of the DAE is "Who are you to question us?" Even healthy criticism is frowned upon.

The AERB report was submitted to the Atomic Energy Commission. It considered the rep on for two hours, but I was given only three minutes to make my presentation. Since there was no feedback, I took the initiative and sent copies of the report to the Cabinet Secretariat, the finance secretary and the Prime Minister's office.

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[Balakrishnan] What happened to the AERB inquiry into the collapse of the dome at the Kaiga reactor?

[Gopalakrishnan] I am under instructions not to speak. All I can say is that if the dome had fallen when the reactor was in operation, then there would have been a catastrophe.

India: Kerala Cabinet Reopens ISRO Espionage Case Investigation

BK2106022396 Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Jun 96 p 11

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Kerala Cabinet on Wednesday [19 June] decided to institute a fresh enquiry into the ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] spy scandal by a "high-level special team" of police officials.

The Chief Minister, Mr. E.K. Nayanar, told press persons after a Cabinet meeting that the assistance of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Research and Analysis wing (RAW) of the Central Government would be sought for the enquiry.

The Cabinet rescinded the authorisation given to the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] a year ago to investigate the case.

The Chief Minister said the Cabinet decision to reinvestigate the case was in tune with the recent High Court orders that the State could reinvestigate the case.

Mr. Nayanar said the CBI enquiry had failed to accomplish the objectives of the enquiry amplified in earlier observations and orders of the High Court on the case.

The case had been investigated by a special investigation team of State police headed by a Deputy Inspector General of Police before it was handed over to the CBI. Now, the investigation would be entrusted to a team headed by a police officer of higher rank.

The case had its origin in the arrest of a Maldivian woman, Ms. Mariam Rasheeda, for allegedly overstaying in the country in November 1994. Leads obtained while questioning her led to the arrest of her compatriot, Ms. Fauziya Hassan, Mr. S. Nambinarayanan, Deputy Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation, Mr. D. Sasikumaran, General Manager of the Fabrications unit of the Centre, Mr. K. Chandrasekharan, trade representative of the Russian Space Agency, Glavkosmos, and his friend, Mr S.K. Sharma. According to the Special Investigation Team and the Intelligence Bureau, the ISRO scientists had passed on documents and drawings relating to the Viking-Vikas and the cryogenic engines and the PSLV [Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle] flight data and drawings to Pakistani agents. The Inspector General of Police, Mr. Ramon Srivastava, was accused of collaborating with them.

The allegation that the then Chief Minister, Mr. K. Karunakaran, tried to protect Mr. Srivastava was one of the grounds used to force him out of office last year. The alleged involvement of high ranking police official and the alleged contacts of the former Prime Minister. Mr. Narasimha Rao's son in the case invited much public attention.

Against this background, the case was handed over to the CBI. The CBI reported that there was no basis for the findings of the State police and the Intelligence Bureau. Stating that the interrogators of the State police and the IB had forced the accused to make statements on suggested lines, it filed a report before the Ernakulam Chief Judicial Magistrate for closure of the case. The court promptly discharged all the six accused on the basis of the report.

The scientists, who had been suspended, have since been reinstated. The suspension of Mr. Srivastava was withdrawn earlier. Any fresh action against them would be contemplated only on the basis of the preliminary report of the high-level investigation team.

Iran

Iran: Larijani—Country Will 'Easily Tackle' U.S. Sanctions

LD2006091396 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Jun 96 pp 1, 14

["Larijani" in an interview with TEHRAN TIMES: "Iran Will Tackle Third Wave of U.S. Sanctions"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran - The U.S. chain threats against Iran unveiled through bills presented in Congress aim to reduce Iran's oil revenues with its secondary sanctions which target non-American oil companies investing in Iran, Mohammad Javad Larijani [deputy chairman of the Majles foreign affairs commission] told the TEHRAN TIMES on Saturday [15th June].

Although the sanctions may have some impact initially, they will not affect our economy significantly.

Washington's bullying policy is doomed to fail not only with respect to the infrastructural projects carried out during the First Five-Year Plan, but also because of the new trends in the post-Cold War era, Larijani said.

To the surprise of U.S. politicians, Islamic Iran has restored relations with the republics of the former Soviet

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Union, he said. Americans had conceived of a U.S.-led unipolar system to dominate the world in the post-Soviet era. On the contrary, the collapse of the Soviet Union has provided a vast playground for international actors. He stressed that the announced U.S. punitive measures against companies investing in Iran's oil sector will not affect Tehran more than a sting.

In its announced secondary sanctions, the U.S.A has targeted Iran's oil industry and customers and aim to block Iran's access to various technologies. With 10,000 experts, Iran's oil industry which is unique in the whole region managed to replace its clients in the first phase of the sanctions and to stand on its own feet in the second wave.

Larijani expressed confidence that Iran will easily tackle the third phase of U.S. sanctions which aims to block access to industrial technologies. Even though the U.S. secondary sanctions might be useful for the U.S. presidential elections, it will not push forward Washington's hostile policies against Iran. He stressed that, without precedent, European countries showed negative reactions to the U.S. announced sanctions against Iran and Cuba. The U.S. policy will jeopardize the interests of many countries.

He predicted that in the struggle, despite their opposition, European countries will not try to undermine the political prestige of President Clinton who is running for a second term. Rather, it seems that they will reach an agreement on the issue in a way that the European countries would go ahead with their cooperation with Iran and, at the same time, as Clinton recedes from his position, ease punitive measures against foreign companies who cooperate with Iran. The U.S. move will not only harm U.S. ties with its European allies, but will also undermine the principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and international security.

Iran: Paper Criticizes U.S. 'Secondary Sanctions'

LD2006203996 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Jun 96 p 2

["Opinion" column: "U.S. Secondary Sanctions — Flogging a Dead Horse"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A bill was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee on Thursday [20 June] calling for U.S. sanctions to be applied to foreign companies investing in Iranian oil.

The key proponent of the bill is the Republican Senator Alfonse d'Amato who is known for his pro-Zionist inclinations. The fact that the bill was passed with the help of the Clinton administration and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the largest pro-Israel lobbying group in the United States, indicates that the Zionist forces are once again at work to influence presidential elections in the United States.

The bill which will become a law after the approval of the House, the Senate and Bill Clinton, is doomed to fail for three reasons: Iran's strength, enabling it to offset the sanctions; vociferous international reactions to the domineering U.S. tendencies; and the opposition of U.S. entrepreneurs, industrialists, and academicians to the Zionist-influenced sanctions.

The bill is not the first of its kind to call for the punishment of foreign companies. On March 12, Clinton enacted the Helms-Burton law allowing former owners of land expropriated by the government of President Fidel Castro to sue foreign companies that have since bought their land from the Cuban government. The Helms-Burton law drew angry protests from Mexico, Canada, and other U.S. allies. The EU and Russia strongly reacted to the law, calling it an infringement upon their sovereignty.

When the United States imposed economic sanctions on Iran last year, the White House predicted to bring the Iranian government to its knees within a fortnight. But on the anniversary of the sanctions, almost all analysts confirmed that the sanctions had little impact on Iran's economy.

Moreover, the U.S. companies have been the main losers of the US embargo against Iran. According to the available statistics, the U.S. companies have lost some $2 billion dollars due to the sanctions imposed on Iran. This is why even some of the U.S. politicians and industrialists are strongly opposed to such measures. Bill Archer, a Texas Republican and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, the committee that has passed the bill, has termed the move as a wrong approach.

Iran has successfully replaced the U.S. firms and companies with foreign bidders in the aftermath of the embargo. Moreover, the sanctions have not been able to affect us, for we have constructed a strong infrastructure enabling our economy to withstand such shocks. Our economy is not as fragile as the U.S. statesmen envisaged. Hence, the secondary sanctions, like the first ones, are doomed to fail.

Although the influence of the Zionist circles on the U.S. policy-makers is too ample to leave any room for any hope for the bill to be killed in the House or the Senate, let's not forget that there are still prominent figures in the United States of America whose hearts beat for their national interest, pride and prestige. Here is an example: Bill Archer says the sanctions "expose U.S. exporters

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to possible retaliation and puts the United States at the centre of a dispute with our allies over appropriate policies toward Iran and Libya."

Only such personalities can rescue the United States from the clutches of a bunch of crooks who have completely surrendered the United States to the Zionist pressure groups.

The world community has realized today that no country should assume that it has the right to tell companies in other countries how they should behave in the Third World.

The unilateral U.S. actions and extra-territorial statutes indeed are contrary to the provisions of the WTO, destroying free trade. They pose a serious threat to the economic and commercial interests of the European Union, Japan and other members of the community of nations.

This is why other countries, specially the members of the European Union, have vehemently protested against such unilateral actions. In fact, the US secondary sanctions are an attempt by the US to make its trading rivals capitulate to its bullying.

We are sure the EU and other industrial nations will not allow the White House to go ahead with its trade bullying. U.S. trade partners should renew their strong objections to such measures at the meeting of the G-7 in France later this month.

Iran: Commentary Views Regional Interest in U.S. Elections

LD2006093396 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 16 Jun 96 p 8

[Article by "Najafi": "Expensive Toys!"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Some western political analysts feel highly optimistic about the chances of US President Bill Clinton's bid for a second term in office.

The reasons they offer is that currently the United States economy is showing progress. GDP grew at an annual rate of 2.8 percent in the first quarter of 1996, inflation is low and unemployment is down to 5.4 percent.

Another significant factor they argue is that Clinton's main opponent Bob Dole, is a weak presidential candidate. They disapprove of his campaign tactics and his ability in projecting the image of a strong and competent chief executive who can replace Clinton in the White House.

However, in this part of the world, particularly in Iran, no-one pays much heed to who is going to win or lose the US presidential race. It is absolutely irrelevant and actually makes no difference whether a Democrat or a Republican is going to be the next occupant of the White House.

But, obviously there are some in the region who care. There are those who believe their fate depends on the person who holds power in the USA.

Perhaps it is this outlook on the part of certain rulers in the Persian Gulf that they are willing to pour a few billion dollars — only 6 billion dollars, not much — into the US economy.

They know that these petro-dollars can help in further lowering unemployment and supporting the US economy and consequently Clinton's popularity on election eve.

In this context, the United Arab Emirates' decision to purchase 80 long-range, multi-purpose fighter-bombers worth 6 billion dollars is understandable. Though aircraft manufacturers in the USA, France and Britain are competing to get a share of the deal, it is anybody's guess where this "tiny" sum will finally reach.

Surmising the destination of this amount and perhaps feeling disappointed 'The Economist' scornfully writes: "And what does Abu Dhabi, which has one military airfield and neither the men nor the training for such aircraft, want with them?"

I don't know why the British have lately become so curious. Some can still afford to collect expensive toys. It is as simple as that.

Iran: Russian Envoy on Iranian-Russian Military Cooperation

LD2006190696 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 7 Jun 96 pp 1, 3

[Report by Irfan Parviz and Mojgan Tavassoli: "Irano-Russian Military Cooperation Not Against Any Country"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — A top Russian diplomat yesterday underscored the importance of his country's relations with Iran, saying, "Moscow attaches high priority and significance to its ties with Tehran, and the two countries military cooperation is directed against none."

"We have achieved great successes in bilateral relations in various important areas of cooperation," Russian Ambassador Sergey Tretyakov said.

In an exclusive interview with Iran News, on the eve of his country's National Day, he expressed his opinion on various aspects of Irano-Russian relations.

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During the last five years, Iran and Russia have trodden a thorny path, but now they can rightly claim that their relations are based on sound principles and mutual respect.

"In addition to their bilateral relations, Iran and Russia are also helping regional peace and stability," Tretyakov said.

After the disintegration of the former superpower and establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Irano-Russian cooperation has been significant and it's been aimed at resolving the many problems besetting the former republics of the Soviet Union.

"Both Iran and Russia, through mutual cooperation and understanding could solve various problems faced by these republics," Tretyakov said and recalled, "Tajikistan and Nagorno-Karabakh are some of the best examples where Iran and Russia extended sincere assistance to silence the guns there."

On the occasion of his country's National day, Tretyakov said, "Through IRAN NEWS, I want to give a message to the people of my host country for a happy and prosperous life."

"Iran and Russia have ancient historical ties which are developing in diversified ways," Tretyakov, 45 said.

The ambassador brushed aside Western media's propaganda and said, "Iran's Bushehr Energy Plant is meant for peace, not for making lethal weapons."

"We have talked to the officials of the United States and satisfied them that the Bushehr plant has nothing to do with making a bomb," Tretyakov said.

The Shah's regime gave a contract to Siemens of Germany in the 1970s to build a nuclear energy complex for Iran in the port of Bushehr in the Persian Gulf.

Germany, under pressure from the United States, decided to avoid all nuclear cooperation with Iran.

Russians started its nuclear energy cooperation with Iran in January last year.

"The project's feasibility study has been completed recently and actual construction is due to start very soon," Tretyakov told IRAN NEWS.

The ambassador is 'optimistic' and said, "Despite being a difficult task, Russian experts would be able to complete the construction work at the Bushehr plant in 48 months.

"I really don't know why certain media are making a fuss over Iran's plan for nuclear energy," the ambassador said, adding that, "Having signed the NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty] and allowing international inspectors to visit the facilities, Iran has the right to obtain nuclear technology, including a reactor for peaceful purposes."

Tretyakov said, "Iran and Russia have military cooperation, but contrary to foreign propaganda, this (military) cooperation is not directed against any country in the region and they do not need to voice concern."

"We have certain commitments to Iran and will fulfil them in all fields for which we had agreed earlier," the ambassador said.

Tretyakov said that with the coordination of Iran we have duly informed the United Nations about military cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

"There is no danger to peace and stability in the region because of the military cooperation between Iran and Russia," Tretyakov emphasized.

"Iran and Russia are cooperating in various new areas, and very recently Iranian Islamic clerics and Russian Orthodox clergies began closer cooperation which is significant," the ambassador said through an interpreter.

Iran and Russia are cooperating with each other on Central Asian issues, the Caucasus, Middle East and Afghanistan.

Tretyakov is well versed in the Persian language (Farsi), but apparently following official policy preferred to speak through an interpreter.

The issue of Iran's debts have been settled during the talks of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Oleg D. Davydov who visited Iran last December.

He said that Iran and Russia are cooperating with each other in the fields of energy, construction, communications and airplane manufacturing industry.

On a recent visit of Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Possouvaluk to Iran, the ambassador said, "It was very successful."

He said "Mr Posavalyuk met with (Deputy Foreign Minister Ala'eddin) Borujerdi and talked on various issues including the situation in Afghanistan."

"No," he said, "we don't have Russian hostages in Afghanistan."

"There are eight Russian airline crew members who are captured by the Taleban and we are seeking assistance with the friendly countries for their freedom," Tretyakov said, adding that, "there are some people from the former Soviet Union who voluntarily decided to live in Afghanistan for ever.

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He said Posavalyuk talked with Iranian officials and it was decided that the meeting of Iran-Russia Joint Economic Commission for the long-term technical and economic development will be held after Russia's June 21 presidential elections.

Tretyakov said that some 40 major projects are under discussion by the Iranian and Russian experts to be finalized during the joint commission's meeting.

Iran: Analysts Express Concern Over Post-Yeltsin Russia

LD2006184296 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 16 Jun 96 pp 1, 13

[News Analysis by Irfan Parviz: "Iran Analysts Concerned Over Post-Yeltsin Russia"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN — All is set in Russia for presidential elections to be held today, the second time two major contenders have emerged in a neck-and-neck race, according to reports from Moscow.

Pro-reform Boris Yeltsin and Communist Gennadiy Zyuganov are two front-runners for the most powerful political seat in the Russian Federation.

In Iran, observers and analysts showed keen interest in neighbouring Russia's elections. Iranian print and broadcast media have carried comprehensive stories on the elections.

One of the most important aspects emerging from the Russian political scene is that Yeltsin is fighting for his political life.

"Five years, since Russia came into existence Yeltsin is fighting for his political life and has received full support from the West, particularly from the United States," IRAN NEWS M. Soltanifar commented.

"Yes," he said, "I'm sure that Yeltsin will win because the United States cultivated all necessary support for him."

The U.S. also gave all backing to Israel's Shim'on Peres. He could not win. How do you explain that?

"What happened in Israel was what the Americans wanted... [ellipses as published] wait a little for someone will dig the story confirming what I believe," Soltanifar said.

He predicted that Yeltsin will win in the second round of the elections to be held next month.

IRAN NEWS Editor-in-Chief, M. Firuzi also shared the opinion of Soltanifar, but said, "The victory in tomorrow's (today's) elections is not something surprising. What is important is the Russian future after the death of Yeltsin."

Firuzi said, "I have serious concern over the future of Russia after the death of Yeltsin as there is a wide gap between his status and his known predecessor, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin."

"Don't forget, Yeltsin is 65 years old and has had two strokes and the third one could be fatal," Firuzi said.

Yeltsin appeared on CNN, and in order to prove that he was healthy he danced before the voters last week.

"For Iran," Firuzi said, "the left-wingers who are also in the Majles favour the victory of Communist Zyuganov."

The Iranian left-wingers would be happy to see Zyuganov in Kremlin as he would introduce state controlled economy in Russia again and would stand firmly against the West, he said.

"They (the Left-wingers) also believe that Communist Russia could provide better security in the region and particularly for Iran on its 2,000 kilometers of borders," Firuzi said.

Persian daily SALAM's Morad Vesi, while talking to IRAN NEWS, cast doubt that today's elections will produce a clear winner. He said the Russians have to go to the polling booths for a second time.

"Well, the victory of Communists is in our (Iran's) favour," Vesi said.

"Communist leader Zyuganov is anti-West and he is more interested to have ties with the East which is a positive aspect for us," Vesi said.

IRAN NEWS' S. Bozorgmehr recalled that Yeltsin during his election campaign pleaded with the voters to reject Communists who, he said want to end many of his reforms.

IRAN NEWS' Mozhgan Jalali and an expert on the Foreign Ministry said, "Yeltsin's sure victory in the first round could have been achieved if he had gone into an alliance with smaller groups."

"It could be a close race," Bozorgmehr predicted.

The voters in Russia have two choices, Soltanifar said, adding that they could vote for painful and unpopular reforms, or for the old guards who will at least take care of their bread and butter.

Others say that the victory of Yeltsin is not as easy as it looks for is viewed by most observers.

Yeltsin made many serious mistakes during the last five years and many of his allies broke with him over the war in Chechnya. The news media are full of stories about his drinking habits and the alleged corruption among his closest aides.

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Yeltsin admits that he made mistakes, but insists only he can stop Russia from sliding back into repression.

Opinion polls, which in Russia are notoriously unreliable, have predicted that none of the candidates will get more than 50 percent of the votes.

On the possible rigging of votes, both sides have accused each other of planning to rig the voting, according to wire copies.

According to other reports, many Russians doubt Yeltsin would surrender power if he lost, while the Reds say they will take to the streets if Yeltsin wins.

The Communists believe that there is a vast conspiracy to destroy Russia involving, among others, the U.S., Jews and Harvard University where, according to the Reds, plots are being engineered against the nations of former Soviet Union in the U.S. university.

Zyuganov, in his election manifesto, promised voters that he will rebuild the Soviet Union, restore state control over many sectors of Russian life and punish reformers. He praises Stalin as a great leader, claiming he was not responsible for the deaths of millions.

Iran: Rabbani-Hekmatyar Axis Should Speed Up Talks With Others

LD2006114396 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 17 Jun 96 p 12

[Political Commentary by F. Asef: "Two Opposing Trends in Afghanistan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two general trends are actively present in the Afghan military and political arena and can effectively determine the future of that country.

The first trend, led by [President Borhanoddin] Rabbani and [former prime minister Golboddin] Hekmatyar, intends to preserve the territorial integrity of the country and allow all jihadi groups to participate in managing the political affairs of Afghanistan.

At present, in a bid to strengthen this camp, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud is trying to bring about an understanding between the government and Karim Khalili's group. Nonetheless, one can claim that after the defeat of the Taleban outside the gates of Kabul, the necessary grounds for national unity have been prepared.

Iran, India, and Russia support this trend, since they all approach the situation in Afghanistan according to their own specific strategic interests. It seems of course that Pakistan too is not very pleased about the presence of tension on its northern and northeastern borders. However, a powerful group in Islamabad is still supporting the fundamentalist Taleban group. Despite all this, Pakistani Prime Minister Ms [Benazir] Bhutto is concerned about the presence of separatist tendencies in regions and provinces bordering Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

However, another camp, which has been undermined due to the present developments, is trying to find an alternative solution. This is the camp which claimed that it would capture Kabul after a short battle and would then change the government. This camp wants America, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan to have a major role in managing the internal affairs of Afghanistan. For this reason, they are trying to internationalize the Afghan issue, thereby undermining the role of regional countries, such as Iran, India, and Russia.

Such a solution has induced some Afghan groups to welcome the ongoing Washington talks, by which America seeks to emphasize its views on the need to establish a federal state in Afghanistan.

Although the pro-government factions have not been invited to these talks, the White House believes that if the jihadi groups accept this proposal, then the incumbent government will also be forced to join this general consensus. Washington also believes that if such an objective materializes, then the necessary grounds will be prepared for the formation of a military coalition with the task of toppling the government. It also hopes that at the same time, the independent tendency of the Afghan nation toward the Orient will disappear and will not return for a very long time.

The Uzbek paramilitary units have strengthened this trend by establishing an aviation route in northern Afghanistan. Of course, it seems unlikely that America is unaware that the establishment of a federal state in Afghanistan is almost impossible, given the tribal and ethnic structure present in that country. It seems, therefore, that the White House intends to place a dilemma before the Afghan factions. In other words, it wants to bring about a situation where Rabbani has to choose between either resigning or allowing the partition of his country into different areas which would be ruled by respective groups and factions.

The interesting point is that all the different factions have started their recent maneuvers because they believe the Afghan people are sick and tired of the war and as the country inevitably moves toward relative peace and tranquillity, they have a chance to ensure the eventual supremacy of their own specific political systems and ideologies. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, it must be said that the Rabbani-Hekmatyar axis ought to speed up its negotiations with other groups in order to bring about national unity

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and ensure the territorial integrity of Afghanistan. In addition, reaching important economic agreements with friendly regional countries can also prove useful to this axis.

Iran: Country Reportedly To Mediate Between Turkey, Syria

JN2006134096 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Jun 96

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq Al-Husayni in Tehran]

[FBIS Translated Text] Political sources close to the Iranian Government here stressed that Tehran plans to mediate between its friendly neighbor, Turkey, and strategic ally, Syria, to defuse tension between the two countries. The sources said Iran does not accept any escalation of the confrontations between the two sisterly neighbors. The sources added that the Tehran government is ready to host the two countries' foreign ministers in the Iranian capital to sponsor bilateral talks between Ankara and Damascus away from the Israeli provocations aimed at spreading an atmosphere of hostility and military confrontations in the region.

In a separate development, the Syrian ambassador in Tehran stressed to us that Dr. Velayati's message to his counterpart Faruq al-Shar' included an Iranian appeal to Arab brothers on the eve of the Cairo Arab summit for enhancing Arab-Islamic brotherhood and closing ranks in the face of the Israeli intransigence and the war atmosphere created by the right-wing Binyamin Netanyahu government.

In this context, our radio learned from reliable sources here that the Iranian Foreign Ministry held consultations over the past few days with a number of Arab ambassadors in Tehran to relay to them Iran's support for every common Arab effort against the Israeli aggression and Iran's readiness to join a common front against the escalating aggressions against the Arabs.

Iran: Syrian Envoy Interviewed on Turkish-Israeli Pact

LD2006224696 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 17 Jun 96 p 3

[Interview with Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan: "Iran-Syria Considering Confronting Turkish-Israeli Military Pact"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Syrian ambassador to Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan says the relations between Iran and Syria remain "strategic" and that the two countries are studying measures to confront the recently concluded Turkish-Israeli pact. Al-Hasan spoke to KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL's 'Ali Akbar Dareini in an exclusive interview 15 June on a wide range of issues, including the recent spate of shuttle diplomacy between Tehran and Damascus, the impact of Netanyahu's victory in Israel, Persian Gulf, etc. The full text of the interview follows:

[Question] A series of events in recent months including the renewed Syrian-Israeli peace talks and Syria's unclear position toward UAE [United Arab Emirates] claims over Iranian islands have led some political observers to conclude that Tehran-Damascus relations are no longer strategic. What do you think?

[Hasan] The relations between Syria and Iran have been strategic and will remain strategic. Both sides have major incentives and mutual interests to perpetuate this relationship.

Syria and Iran have common enemies and share identical views on many regional and international issues. We are not going to make peace with Israel without getting our rights and there nothing bad with our position towards Iran and UAE, both of them Syria's friends.

[Q] Syria and Egypt together with the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (P)GCC in their December meeting were reported to have supported UAE's sovereignty claims over Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs. What is Syria's position toward Iran-UAE island dispute?

[A] In that conference, the UAE wanted to raise a number of issues against Iran and Syria's position helped moderate the UAE tone. It has been misinterpreted.

Syria believes the dispute between Iran and UAE should be solved through bilateral negotiations, and neither side should try to exaggerate the problem and help foreign powers to justify their presence in the region.

[Q] What do you think about Bahrain's charges that Iran has been involved in a plot to topple the ruling Al-Khalifa family? Do you think it is a locally-rooted problem or not?

[A] Bahrain has accused Iran of having a hand in a plot to overthrow the government there but there is no evidence to support this claim.

[Q] Turkey and Israel signed a military pact in February which gives Israeli planes training rights in Turkish airspace. Israel also gained Turkish permission to conduct surveillance flights along the Syrian and Iranian borders. Comments please?

[A] This is very disappointing to see a Muslim state signing a military accord like this with the enemy of Muslims. The pact is clearly aimed at Syria and Iran. Israel with the help of Turkey is trying to weaken us, to

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make itself close to Iranian borders and to put pressure on Syria in the north in order to get concessions in the south. Syria condemns this pact which is against the interests of all Muslims.

Syria and Iran are considering ways and contemplating measures to confront the Turkish-Israeli pact. This issue was among the topics discussed during the visit to Damascus of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

[Q] The Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu has ruled out the return of Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for peace. How do you evaluate the change in Israel.

[A] From Syria's point of view there is no difference between the Labor or Likud Party. Both parties are after their Zionism goal of dominating the Middle East.

There cannot be a peace without an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands. The Israelis have to accept the idea of 'land for peace.' Netanyahu is after peace for peace, which is quite senseless to us. The only difference is that the right wingers in Israel are more extremist than the left wingers.

Of course, one should see a difference between election campaign promises and the performance of the new Israeli leader in action.

[Q] What the Arab summit June 21-23 is going to say to Israel?

[A] Twenty Arab leaders will meet next week to make it clear to Israel that there cannot be peace in the Middle East without Israeli commitment to the principles of peace the declarations of the new Israeli prime minister contradict its obligations under the agreement reached in the Madrid conference.

The summit will support a comprehensive Middle East peace and will be a positive development.

[Q] What was the motive behind Velayati's last week visit to Damascus?

[A] It was part of the regular contracts between the two countries for consultation over various bilateral and regional issues. Mr. Velayati also delivered a message from President Rafsanjani to President al-Asad. There is a need for strategic allies to remain in touch all the time, anyway.

Iran: Editorial Criticizes Ankara's Policies Toward Syria

LD2006201296 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Jun 96 p 2

[Editorial: "Ankara's Policies Toward Syria: Serving the Zionist Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Travellers arriving from the Turkish-Syrian border speak of tension as well as gunfire from the Turkish side.

Earlier reports also indicated that the Turks have been involved in undermining Syria's security through a series of bombings.

Who is responsible for this situation and what are the reasons behind it?

Although Turkey is a Muslim country, it has turned into an ally of the Muslims' arch enemy, i.e., the Zionist regime, since it signed a military cooperation agreement with Tel Aviv in February this year.

After the Zionist regime had concluded a series of peace accords with the PLO and Jordan, it failed to make Syria and Lebanon surrender to similar accords. Syria and Lebanon have genuine demands and will not give in to the Zionist pressures unless those demands are met.

This is why the Zionist regime has tried to open a new front on Syria's western borders. It succeeded in this nasty objective with the help of Ankara when it concluded the notorious military accord.

Contrary to the will of its Muslim people, Ankara is determined to move toward a stronger alliance with the United States even at the expense of its ties with Europe. This is why in its new mission of functioning as an agent of the Tel Aviv-Washington, Turkey does not recognize any limit.

Ankara must realize that the Zionist regime will not spare any Muslim country. If today the Zionists are targeting Syria and Lebanon, tomorrow it will be Ankara's term but at an appropriate opportunity.

Weakening Syria's political position will only serve the enemies of the Muslims. Playing into the tune of the Zionist regime may give Ankara short-term advantages. In the long-run Turkey itself will be the victim of its own policies. Unfortunately, the main victims of Ankara's policies are the common people and in the case of a crisis too the people will be the main sufferers.

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Iran: Commentary—Violations of Iraq's Sovereignty Continue

LD2006092396 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 17 Jun 96 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Iraqi Sovereignty Is Again Under Attack"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iraq is embroiled in a new row with the United Nations Security Council this week over the issue of illegal weapons, and the developments demonstrate that the crisis is not going to be resolved any time soon.

As the UN-Iraq crisis intensified, Turkish troops crossed into the mountains of northern Iraq and killed some 200 rebels of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) in a three-day operation.

The Iraqi internal situation continues to remain open to external interference since it attacked neighbouring Kuwait in 1990. The dragging and tiring UN inspection business in search of Iraqi illegal weapons allows external forces to interfere into Iraq's internal affairs and that country's sovereignty also remains under a serious threat.

This is not the first time that the Turkish forces crossed the Iraqi border for military operations against PKK rebels. Last year, a six-week incursion involving 35,000 troops drew heavy criticism from the regional and other countries.

Observers in the region believe that top priority should be given to iron out all misunderstandings and disputes between the world body and the Iraqi regime. Observers say that normal Iraqi-UN relations is a necessity and a prerequisite for the peace and stability in the region.

The same observers also believe the Iraqi-UN problems should be settled before the end of tenure of Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who belongs to this region and understands it better than his probable Western successor.

One can expect continuous violations of Iraqi sovereignty as long as the so-called cat and mouse game between the Iraqi regime and the UN Security Council continues.

Those who belive that sovereignty of all the countries should be maintained, expect the Turkish forces to vacate all Iraqi territory at the earliest.

Serious concern is being expressed by political observers because, unlike in the past, this week's incursion by Turkish forces appeared deeper and on a larger-scale.

Turkish forces should remember that they did not succeed in their hot pursuit operations against the rebels in the past and there is no guarantee that this time they would achieve their objective.

Ankara's troops should also keep in mind that collective efforts, and not unilateral moves, are the only means of solving problems such as Turkey is facing regarding rebellion in its territory.

Iran: Editorial Examines Implications of New Israeli Government

LD2006190396 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 17 Jun 96 p 2,7

[Editorial by 'Ali Akbar Dareini: "Two Sides of the Same Coin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What does the victory of the extremist Likud party leader Benjamin Netanyahu in the recent Zionist elections mean?

Many political observers believe that the election of the hot-headed Netanyahu as the new Zionist prime minister was the outcome of a decision by the Zionist establishment and its intelligence, rather than the wish of the Jews living in occupied Palestine. The reason: Domestic considerations and getting tougher with the Arabs.

The outcome of the Zionist elections has shocked 'Arafat, angered al-Asad, and disappointed Clinton.

The policy guidelines announced by the prime minister-elect rule out the creation of an independent Palestinian state or any division of Jerusalem, call for boosting Jewish settlement activity, and reject any return of the Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for peace.

If Netanyahu implements his election campaign promises and his declared policies, the whole so-called peace process would collapse. He would negotiate with Syria but never give up the Golan Heights. He would abide by the Palestinian autonomy deal but would build more Jewish settlements in the West Bank. He would undertake talks on the territory's final status but not discuss Beit-ol-Moqqaddas [Jerusalem].

Netanyahu's view is that negotiations with the Palestinians will go forward and he will only offer a limited autonomy to the Palestinians: the freedom to run their internal affairs with the exception of foreign policy and overall security.

Observers believe Netanyahu will not implement all his promises because these policies, if implemented, would destroy the whole so-called peace process. And the Zionist decision-makers too will not let this happen because the Zionists need the kind of peace process that approves their occupation of Palestine. They have

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clipped the wings of Jordan's King Husayn and 'Arafat by making them recognize Israel and sign accords that the Zionists need. Now they want to get tougher with Syria and not allow greater autonomy to Palestinians. To do that, they needed Netanyahu to win.

However, the aims of the outgoing Peres were not different from those of Netanyahu. The Zionist regime will not allow the establishment of a Palestinian state and are, in the long run, seeking to realize their old dream of dominating the Middle East from the Nile to the Euphrates. But to obtain Arab recognition of the lands they have occupied, they need to make what they call "peace" with Arabs, the rest will come later. Peres wanted to secure Arab recognition with a few concessions, Netanyahu wanted to give nothing.

In fact, for the Palestinian and Lebanese people, Peres and Netanyahu are two sides of the same coin. It was Peres killing Palestinians and bombing Lebanese civilians yesterday, and it will be Netanyahu tomorrow.

With the switch of power in Israel, and following a mini-summit in Damascus attended by Syria's al-Asad, Egypt's Mubarak, and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince 'Abdallah last week, 20 Arab leaders are scheduled to meet in Cairo on June 21-23 to discuss the impact of the Netanyahu's victory in the Zionist elections and make a unified stance on the new situation.

Observers say the summit will be helpful, but considering their division and propensity for compromising, the leaders will achieve nothing dramatic.

Netanyahu is watching to assess the resoluteness of the Arab leaders, and they are waiting to see what the composition of the new Zionist cabinet, to be introduced this week, will be.

In any case, the Likud leader will continue the same expansionist policies of the Labor party, but by employing more extremism, terrorism and a harsher tone than his predecessor.

Iran: EU-U.S. Rivalry Seen Affecting Turkey-Greece Disputes

NC2006180496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 18 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Greek] Prime Minister Simitis strongly attacked Turkey on 16 June. He said that Greece is ready to defend its sovereignty and accused Turkey of ignoring his country's sovereignty over Gavdhos island.

It is common knowledge that the dispute between Turkey and Greece over the Kardak [Imia] islets in the Aegean Sea created a dangerous situation between the two countries some time ago. The two countries placed their military forces on a state of alert. However, the tension defused when the Western countries intervened, particularly when the United States, which is NATO's patron, said that it did not want a dispute within the organization.

Observers believe that the territorial disputes between Turkey and Greece have affected the EU and NATO. That prompted the United States and the EU to adopt conflicting policies. The disputes between Ankara and Athens moved the United States to maintain its interventionist policy on matters that concern Europe's security. Naturally, the U.S. interventions are due to the EU's intention to create an independent status for itself within NATO. Several experts have said that they believe that the EU's support for Greece's policies and sovereignty vis-a-vis Turkey is to a certain extent due to the rivalry between the EU and the United States.

Meanwhile, Washington believes that Turkey is an important country because it serves as a bridge for its intervention in the Asian continent's troubled regions, including Central Asia and the Caucasus. That is why it seems to be indirectly supporting it against Greece. Considering that, the European Parliament's official affirmation of Greece's sovereignty over the Kardak islets last February should not be surprising. Obviously, the United States and Europe are competing to maintain their influence on Turkey.

All this shows that a conflict is emerging between the United States and Europe from time to time particularly on matters related to Europe's security.

Iran: Paper Discusses Visit by European Parliamentarians

LD2006183796 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 16 Jun 96 p 3

[Unattributed report: "European Parliamentarians Meet With Muslim, Minority Deputies"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — Two British members of the European Parliament and a member of the House of Lords of England met with Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani yesterday, a statement from the Islamic Consultative Assembly said.

Bryan Cassidy, who is accompanied by Edward McMillan-Scott and Lord Bethel, said in his opinion that Iran is a very important country in the Middle East and without Iran no peace and stability could be achieved in the region.

He said he favoured a policy of critical dialogue with the Islamic Republic instead of confrontation.

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Dr Larijani, the head of the Majles Investigations Committee and the Tehran representative, said he welcomed the visit of the delegation from the European Parliament.

"Naturally we formulate our relations with other nations on the basis of our national interests, and we prefer to expand ties with those countries which are more trustworthy.

Elsewhere, Larijani said: "One weak point in Iran's relationship with Europe is that the Europeans insist that their principles should be universally accepted whereas we believe that different nations should respect each other's civilizations and codes and draw a balance instead of clashing with each others' principles."

He said the Islamic Republic welcomes a dialogue with the European Union and hopes that EU will move towards political independence of Europe.

Asked whether the different allegations, brought against Iran's regarding intervention in the Persian Gulf, conformed with Iran's interests, Larijani said: "Our policy is crystal clear: To protect our interests and those of other nations it is necessary for all countries in the region to live in peaceful coexistence and cooperate with each other in economic, political and defence matters."

"We have two sorts of problems here: One is regional differences such as Iraq's invasion of Iran and Kuwait, the border skirmishes between Saudi Arabia and Yemen and similar differences and the second is US intervention in the Persian Gulf which aggravates the situation," Larijani complained.

With regard to tension in Bahrain, Larijani said those who are interested in the future of the Shaykhdom must not neglect the purely domestic problems besetting that island, and should refrain from making baseless accusations against Iran which does not help matters at all. Based on a US plan, Bahrain government is following a policy of separation from its nation.

Since the difference has arisen from within that country, it must be cured from within, the Iranian MP noted.

Larijani expressed help that the British deputies would closely observe the facts in Iran and draw a realistic picture of events in this country.

The British delegation also conferred with minority deputies of the Majles and became acquainted with the condition of minority groups in Iran and the legislative body's operations system.

Iran: Daily Explains Cases of Human Rights Violation in Europe

LD2006193696 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Jun 96 p 14

[Editorial by Taqi Dejkam: "Please Change the Agenda!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 13 June a number of British members of the European Parliament arrived in Tehran to review the human rights situation in Iran and submit a report to the European Union.

Notwithstanding all the debates, significant as they may be, about whether the visit is taking place as a result of requests by the Islamic Republic of Iran or because the Europeans themselves have initiated it as a reaction to all the provocative propaganda waged by America and the Zionists, there is one fundamental issue that needs careful attention.

The issue is that despite all the propaganda hue and cry of the West regarding the human rights issue in the Third World, many cases of extensive violation of these rights in Western countries themselves are often ignored on purpose. However, the execution of an international drug smuggler in Iran soon becomes a subject for extensive propaganda and is seen as a major case of human rights violation.

Of course, there are times when the Western media do report cases of human rights violations in their own countries. However, they never give too much detail and never explain the extent and frequency of these cases. Mentioning a few of these cases is quite useful in that it reveals the double standards inherent in the Western world's policy on human rights.

For example, last May, the high-circulation dailies of England, such as THE TIMES, THE GUARDIAN, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, and THE INDEPENDENT, published a number of reports on remarks by Dr. George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who had strongly protested against the English system of justice, saying that it resembled "a culture of revenge" [Persian: farhang-e enteqam].

In these remarks, which were addressed to the British home secretary, he said the English judicial and penal procedures were "primitive." Furthermore, he strongly attacked what he termed as the "beastly treatment" of women and young prisoners.

He said: Many prisoners feel totally despondent when they are released after many years of imprisonment. Their plight is worsened when they find out that they have lost their jobs, as well as their spouses and families.

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The non-governmental organization of Amnesty International published a regional report in March this year explaining cases of human rights violations in a number of European countries during the summer and autumn of 1995. The report mentioned some important cases of human rights violations in these countries, especially in England.

These were as follows: Torture in prisons, maltreatment of inmates, the death of detainees, executions outside legal and judicial frameworks, carrying out death sentences, holding prisoners of conscience, the disappearance of political opposition figures, disregard for legal procedures in all stages of trials, subjecting inmates to sexual harassment or even sexual assault, maltreatment of foreign nationals as well as members of ethnic and religious minorities, and finally the failure of some European states to ratify various human rights accords and charters.

It is clear that the Western world, which commits so much inhumane violence in the process of implementing its legal and judicial procedures, has no right to question a country that is doing its best to base its legal and judicial system on Islamic and Koranic laws and tenets.

It is therefore quite clear that the message that our people have for this delegation is: Please change your working agenda and move the area of your investigation from Iran to England!

Iran: Foundation Director Refutes Figures in Majles Report

LD2006174896 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 12 Jun 96 p 1, 13

[Article: "Most Figures in Majles Committee Report on the MJF are Incorrect"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN — Most of the figures presented in the report issued by the Majles (Parliament) Investigative Committee on the Mostaz'afin and Janbazan Foundation (MJF) [Foundation for the Oppresesed and Disabled] are incorrect, [Foundation Director] Mohsen Rafiqdust told IRAN NEWS here yesterday.

The MJF director said: "The Majles Investigative Committee has not studied the Foundation's weaknesses and strengths in juxtaposition and we believe that such an investigation is incorrect."

"The MJF will issue an answer in the coming week," the director stressed.

The MJF has fully cooperated with the Majles Committee by placing all information at their disposal, he maintained.

On the MJF activities, Rafiqdust referred to the project for the construction of the Tehran-Chalus Freeway which costs around 2,200 billion rials with the agreement of the Ministry of Roads and Transportation.

"Over the next two months, this contract will be finalized, after which the project will go on stream in 6 years, sparking a dramatic development in the economy of the northern part of the country," he noted.

"In addition, the MJF will set up 10 large residential towns along this freeway, a measure that can optimally solve the housing problem of the people of Tehran," the director added.

Rafiqdust said: "Given the MJF's high technical and engineering capabilities, we can conduct various development and industrial projects at home and actively take part in international projects and tenders."

"Right now, we have won different tenders in Pakistan and Libya, while negotiating on tenders in other countries," he explained.

On the MJF's priorities for future economic activities, he remarked, "agriculture, development, housing, tourism, industries, and commerce are the focus of our attention."

He placed the MJF profits in the year 1374 [1995-1996] at 400 billion rials. Noting that exports of MJF goods and services over the past year have fetched $50 million, he expressed hope that this figure would reach $100 million this year.

"In the future, we will pay special attention to the export of technical and engineering services," he stressed.

Rafiqdust noted: "During the Second Plan, we will hand over 300 of our 400 companies to the people, while shares of a number of these companies will be offered to the public through the Stock Exchange."

Over the past seven years, the MJF has invested around 1,000 billion rials in the industrial and economic sectors, he said, expressing hope that this figure would reach 380 billion rials in the current year.

Rafiqdust added that presently 35 percent of the executive work of the MJF production and industrial units is carried out by the disabled working at the foundation.

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Iran: Member of Parliament Resigns

LD2006181196 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 17 Jun 96 p 1, 13

[News report by M. Serjooie: "In a Preemptive Move, MP-Elect Resigns"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran — In a preemptive move a Majles deputy-elect yesterday presented his resignation to Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

The speaker informed an open session of the lawmakers yesterday about the resignation of Hamid Bahrami, who was elected from the Rafsanjan Constituency in March-April elections for the fifth term of the Majles.

Credentials of Bahrami were rejected by the screening committees of the Majles at two stages of the process. The findings of the screening committees will be presented to the Majles on Wednesday [19 June] for a debate and final voting.

In Wednesday's session, Bahrami was expected to defend his case against the verdict of the screening committees.

Thinking that his case is weak, in a pre-emptive move, Bahrami preferred to resign, observers believe.

An informed source at the Majles told IRAN NEWS that, "members of the screening committees alleged that Mr. Bahrami had collaborated with the Shah's dreaded secret police, SAVAK."

The screening committees also reviewed records which proved Bahrami's involvement in anti-revolutionary movements.

Bahrami fought the elections supported by the Jame'e-ye Ruhaniyyat-e Mobarez (JRM) and observers were surprised how he managed to get through earlier stages of screenings prior to the actual elections.

Majles experts, however, say that Bahrami's resignation will not close his file. They say that according to the procedure, a deputy should face an open session of the Majles where the lawmakers make a final decision on his fate by voting for or against his resignation. If the Majles representatives vote against accepting his resignation, Bahrami's credentials will then be discussed by his supporters and opponents at another open session of the Majles and a final vote will be taken on the issue.

If Majles deputies accept the resignation of Bahrami, the interior minister will hold by-elections in September.

In the last elections, two major contenders fought in the Rafsanjan Constituency in Kerman province, Bahrami and Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Hashemian. Hashemian was placed second when the results of the elections for the fifth term of the Majles were announced. It is believed that Hashemian would win the by-election. He was a deputy in the fourth term of the Majles and was also a leader of the Left-Wingers in the legislative body.

Meanwhile, in yesterday's open session presided over by Nateq-Nuri, deputies approved the credentials of Bahman Akhavan of the Central Province and Bahaoddin Adab from Kurdistan province.

JRM's Deputy Husayn Sharifi from the Arak Constituency, raised objections over the credentials of Adab. Sharifi alleged that Adab, supported by the Servants of Reconstruction, or the G-6, has capitalistic tendencies. He also mentioned a number of wrongdoings committed by Sharifi during his election campaign.

In another move, the lawmakers rejected the objections raised by JRM's Abbas Sheybani against G-6's Bahman Akhavan. Sheybani alleged that Akhavan spent inordinately large sums of money during his election campaign.

A total of 220 deputies have cast their votes in favor of Akhavan, five against the 11 abstained.

G-6's Adab has won goodwill votes of 167 representatives, while 27 cast their ballots against him and 24 abstained.

The parliament delayed its normal opening by two hours yesterday to hold a closed session in which Akhavan's and Adab's credentials were reviewed by deputies.

Iran: Commentary Urges Relaxed Rules for Returning Emigres

LD2006190596 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 15 Jun 96 p 11

[Commentary by Dr. Morteza Ko'i: "Some Points About the Return of Iranian Emigres"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Some time ago BBC Radio [Persian Service] carried interviews with two Iranians, a young man and a young woman. It was interesting to note that, as usual, after recounting a series of misleading points and adverse propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the BBC reporter asked: Under these circumstances, are you prepared to go back? But, the two youngsters replied sincerely and honestly: We love Iran and would like very much to go back and live amongst our compatriots.

The passage of time has proved that patriotism is one of the most outstanding characteristics of every Iranian. Iranians, wherever they are, celebrate all their national festivals and have preserved all their national characteristics and value them. Every Iranian, in spite

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of all the poisonous and dastardly propaganda, loves his country and it is because of that love that most of the three million Iranians abroad have maintained their ties with Iran and Iranians. During the previous regime's era, if an Iranian adopted another nationality, even in emergency or expedient circumstances, he would not be permitted to return to Iran. But in the Islamic Republic the judicial authorities have announced repeatedly that everybody is free to return at any time. [passage omitted]

It is hoped that the mass media, particularly the INTERNATIONAL ETTELA'AT, will play a part in informing our compatriots abroad of our achievements. In this manner, educated Iranian youngsters may learn about affairs in their country and decide to return home and work, instead of serving foreigners.

However, a few points should be made about certain capitalists who once amassed their wealth in Iran through correct and legitimate means, were a source of benevolence and goodness with their products, left the country after the revolution taking their capital with them, and are engaged in economic activities abroad.

Undoubtedly, any wealth amassed by anyone in the past through extortion, illegitimate means, and violations of other people's rights, by reason and logic, should be returned to the government's treasury; that is justice. But among the decisions taken it has been seen that the confiscation of the assets of some people has been based on suspicion and doubt. Even worse, the management of some manufacturing institutes has been delegated to people who, due to their weakness or mismanagement, have caused the gradual diminishing of those assets, consequently resulting in losses for the main investors. It also leads to the government, workers, and employees being made redundant. Additional shortcomings arise through the inconsistencies in certain organization's decisions and violate the rights of the people. [passage omitted]

In short, some capitalists have been treated unkindly and for that reason they have left the country and are engaged in economic and social activities abroad. Apparently most of them would like to return to Iran and resume their previous activities. Is it not then time for the government to make certain plans and provide certain facilities for educated youngsters and also capitalists, who have been through life's ups and downs, to return to Iran and have active participation in the construction and privatization program and share in the trend of the country's economic prosperity? Naturally, whoever enters the country must obey the laws of this land and no one should expect anything beyond the bounds of the law.

Iran: Emami-Kashani—Islamic States 'Tested' on Israel Stance

LD2106103396 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian 0800 GMT 21 Jun 96

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, spokesman of the Guardian Council, at Tehran University — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

The issue that I want to address now is the current situation in Islamic countries and what the Zionists and the usurper Israel are up to. The Islamic ummah and all Islamic nations are at present being tested. That is to say, their attitude toward Israel is being tested. What are you doing in the face of Israel's thuggery and the crimes of the White House which supports the usurper Israel? Is the Islamic ummah of one billion people doing anything heroic about all these?

History will surely record any possible indifference, silence, and inaction. If the members of the Islamic ummah remain silent towards the atrocities committed by world criminals — such as the Zionists — against the oppressed Muslims, then they will have nothing to show to their offspring and future generations but shame, disgrace, and embarrassment. Furthermore, they will be accountable to the Almighty. [Crowd chants: God is Great! Death to Israel and America!]

The Islamic ummah has a duty, and it must fulfil this duty right now. [passage omitted]

Iran: Editorial Criticises OPEC Raising Quota Level

LD2006222696 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 10 Jun p 2

[Editorial: "OPEC's Latest Blunder"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At their 100th meeting held in Vienna recently OPEC ministers raised the production ceiling to 25,033,000 barrels per day (bpd) to offset the adverse effects of Iraq's re-entry into the market with 700,000 bpd at a time when Gabon left the organization and its 280,000 bpd has been assigned to Iraq.

When Iraq was banished from OPEC after the Persian Gulf War, instead of reducing their production levels to firm up prices, some OPEC members such as Saudi Arabia which took over Iraq's portion, did not make the proper production adjustments needed for stablizing the market.

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Now that Iraq has rejoined OPEC by producing 700,000 bpd, instead of decreasing the total production ceiling and penalizing countries such as Venezuela and Nigeria which have been producing more than their quota, OPEC has raised its total production ceiling.

OPEC's latest decision is exactly what the market expected with jubilation and will celebrate the event by reducing oil prices.

Such a decision by OPEC shows that either the organization has lost its rational reasoning or has been influenced by the big players to increase their own quota to the detriment of the majority of the members.

But we are sure that with such a rash decision the price of oil won't improve and OPEC won't be able to establish its true position in the international market.

Meanwhile, judging by past performances and considering the fact that OPEC has not punished quota violators, what assurance can we have that the present quota will be observed?

Decline of oil prices mostly benefit major consumers which are the industrialized nations, and the loss is directly borne by oil producers.

Therefore, it is imperative for OPEC members as well as non-OPEC producers such as the United Kingdom and Norway, to carefully consider the realities of the petroleum market and the extent of oil demand so that they can prevent the auctioning of oil to the benefit of the rich nations and to the economic detriment of the Third World.

Iran: Reduction of Subsidies Seen as Means To Eradicate Poverty

LD2106085796 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Jun 96 pp 2, 4

[Article by Engineer Mohammad-Hasan Qadiri-Abyaneh: "A Critique on Eradication of Poverty — Consumer Tax"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] When measuring the economic power of any country, that country's imports and consumption are placed on one side of the scales and its production and exports on the other. The greater the difference in favor of the production and exports side, the greater that country's economic advantage. That is why, in order to follow the path of development, credibility, and power, various countries think of ways of reducing the weight of imports and consumption and increasing that of production and exports on the economic scales.

To achieve this, on the one hand, consumption is controlled through levying significant taxation on consumables and imports are limited by adopting high tariffs in favor of domestic products while, on the other, special facilities are created for domestic producers. In other words, by adopting a policy of consumer taxation on the one hand, and, on the other allocating subsidies for export products, they [as received] seek to gain credibility, economic power, and growth for their countries. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately industrial and colonialist countries, which seek to prevent the development of the wealthy Third World countries — in particular Islamic countries — have suggested and imposed a method contrary to that used by themselves, and that is "obstructing production and giving subsidies for consumables." Unfortunately our country inherited such a method from the former regime and today we are witness to the wastage of the country's great resources through subsidies.

A clear example of this wasted subsidy is that for fuels and sources of energy. The subsidy is $11 billion per annum — in other words, $30 million every day.

If we assume that the cost of a barrel of crude oil is $16 (actually, much more than that today), then the price of each liter of crude oil will be more than 10 cents or more than 30 tumans, and the price of gas oil, paraffin oil, and gasoline will be about 20 cents or 60 tumans per liter. This is the amount that the government can add to the public coffers by exporting the oil instead, as it is the amount it has had to pay in the past years to buy it from abroad. That is while throughout last year [beginning 21 March 1995] the government has been selling paraffin oil and gas oil at 2 tumans per liter or about $1 per barrel and, in the current year, it is selling it at 3 tumans per liter or about $1.5 a barrel. And all that after paying for transport and distribution. Paying subsidies in that fashion has exceedingly adverse side effects, one of which is the tremendously wasteful consumption of those commodities; so much so that Iran has consumed as much fuel oil as China and India with their 1-billion populations. In fact Iran has been wasting most of that amount of fuel. The daily subsidies for fuel are equivalent to the cost of a big dam. [passage omitted]

A reduction or the elimination of fuel subsidies and some others, such as airline subsidies, and even levying tax on such commodities and services, will offer a vital means of eradicating poverty, eliminating deprivation, creating employment, and bringing prosperity to the country. For this to be attained its dimensions must first be understood. It can only be realized through the support of everyone, particularly the Islamic Consultative Majles, the esteemed clergy, and the media.

In short, Iran must be rescued from being a consumer state and the government needs help in realizing that. [passage omitted]

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Iran: Law Enforcement Forces Commander on Drug Seizures

LD2106105696 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 21 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rasht, Gilan Prov., June 21, IRNA — Some 142 tons of narcotics were confiscated by the disciplinary forces across the country during the last Iranian year (ended March 19), said a senior law-enforcement official here Thursday. [20 June]

Terming as eyecatching Iran's performance in campaign against narcotics smuggling, Commander of the Law Enforcement Forces Brigadier General Reza Seyfollahi said international organizations have praised Iran's campaign. During the current Iranian year, the Law Enforcement Forces are to launch operations at the border areas to check narcotics smugglings, he concluded.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Bhutto Interviewed on India Talks, Budget

BK2106013596 Islamabad PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 19 Jun 96 pp 1,11

[Report on interview with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by Zafar Malik and Tanvir Siddiqui in Islamabad on 18 June]

[FBIS Transliterated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has emphatically denied rumours that she has any plan to sell Bilawal House or that she has bought a mansion in England to settle down there, describing it as "mischief and part of disinformation campaign" by the opposition.

"Why should I sell this house which has brought me so much good luck and respect", said the Prime Minister in her exclusive interview held at the PM's National Assembly chamber on Tuesday.

She also discussed a number of problems facing the country with a panel of newsmen, representing PAKISTAN OBSERVER and AL-AKHBAR led by Editor-in-Chief Zahid Malik.

Ms Bhutto, who directly controls Ministry of Finance, revealed that she had directed the concerned authorities either to exempt the perquisite tax on salaried classes imposed in the new budget or to reduce the tax slabs to the minimum.

The Oxford-educated Bhutto, who has been elected prime minister twice, said this is not the first time that false rumours had been spread about her, by the vested interests. It was alleged in the past that she wanted to leave the country to become UN Secretary General. Now these elements were talking of disposing of Bilawal House by her and acquisition of crates by her to shift her household effects to England.

She said these could hardly be believed by the people, who have reposed their confidence in her as Prime Minister and who hold her in high esteem, love and affection. "I love my country. How could I ever think of leaving it? I have stayed here in the most difficult times and did not even at that time think of settling abroad," she said pointing out that there was nothing wrong in purchasing a house abroad and it is permitted under the law of the land to do so. She had all the resources to buy a house abroad, but this idea never occurred to her as she prefers to live in her own country and serve the nation.

With facts and figures at her finger tips, the Prime Minister conceded that the new budget was a difficult one, but said the nation has to make sacrifices for a brighter future wherein there would be no load-shedding, no shortage of drinking water and nobody would go without food.

The Prime Minister said due to her pre-occupation with the budget, she could not respond to the Indian premier's reply to her proposal for talks on Kashmir and other outstanding disputes between Pakistan and India. "I will consult the security analysts and experts after the budget session is over to formulate our response."

She said, "We are neither optimistic nor pessimistic about the solution of the Kashmir problem." She said there is a set process of dialogue. She cannot say whether the dialogue shall be fruitful or a failure.

She said this in response to a suggestion that the proposed dialogue should be at summit level as the talks held at foreign ministers and foreign secretaries levels had never yielded any results. She said it is a historical fact that talks between Pakistan and India have generally failed. We have good intentions and the new Indian government in its letter has also shown a positive response. We prefer that the basic dispute over Kashmir should be resolved through dialogue. The process of dialogue cannot be ignored.

The Prime Minister referred to the dismantling of the Berlin wall, independence of Central Asian states and Namibia and rejection of apartheid during this century and posed a question as to why Pakistan and India cannot resolve the Kashmir dispute. She expressed the hope that by the grace of Allah this dispute would be resolved soon, as the two countries cannot afford to remain in a state of perpetual tension. "They have to resort to dialogue and resolve their outstanding disputes."

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She pointed out that the new government of India, headed by HD Gowda, has made a reference to Kashmir dispute in its manifesto, which calls for the resolution of the problem through dialogue with Pakistan.

The Prime Minister recalled that Pakistan had not deliberately sent any substantive message to the BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party] government knowing fully well that it would not be able to obtain a vote of confidence from the parliament. That was why after the induction of HD Gowda as the new prime minister, "we immediately proposed a dialogue on Kashmir and other bilateral problems." Pakistan would send its reply to India in response to their letter soon after the budget session.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto replying to a question about the opposition decision to reject the budget and to launch a movement to force the government to withdraw it, said the opposition should come forward with a formula for reducing the gap between the income and expenditure in the budget, in the light of the income standing at 320 billion rupees and the expenditure minus development at 400 billion rupees.

If you reduce the income by way of withdrawal of taxes, the gap would further rise and the country would be forced to borrow more and thus go on multiplying its debt burden, which presently stood at 26 billion dollars.

"What opposition is demanding is actually against national interests and tantamount to pushing the country towards bankruptcy."

Our debts have gone up rapidly during Nawaz Sharif government who resorted to excessive borrowings on commercial rates and it was because of Nawaz Sharif government's policies that the nation was facing tremendous difficulties and the country had been brought to the verge of total ruination.

Ms Benazir Bhutto pointed out that her strategy was to reduce the burden of debts and generate funds through tax mobilisation in order to bring down inflation which would ultimately benefit the common man.

She said it was her government which has for the first time used proceeds of privatisation to reduce the burden of loans.

In this connection she mentioned the payment of one billion dollars towards repayment of loans.

The funds were available through privatisation of PTC and Kot Addu power project, which yielded 200 million dollars and 786 million dollars respectively.

Unfortunately, she pointed out that there are less than one million tax payers in a country of 130 million people. The actual number of tax payers stood at only 800,000 out of which 300,000 were government servants.

"In such a situation, if we do not resort to mobilisation of resources, how could you have more hospitals, schools, roads and dams, which are essential for the welfare of the people?" she asked.

Ms Benazir Bhutto defended the imposition of General Sales Tax, which one has to pay on the purchases, he wishes to make.

She was of the view that hypocritical attitude towards ending poverty must change and the nation must he educated through effective use of media apprising them about the gravity of the problems facing the country, which celebrates its 50th anniversary next year.

"For how long we would live on hoax and false hopes", she questioned emphasising that what the country actually needed today was to have a solid planning for future development and it is with this end in view that her government had introduced the macro- adjustment programs.

The growth of population has to be checked. It should not touch the figure of 200 billion in the next 10 to 15 years. We plan to keep it within the limit of 160 million at the most, said Ms Bhutto recalling when her father ZA Bhutto was prime minister, the population stood at only 60 million and today they had a population of 130 million. Unless the growth in population is checked. the country will be faced with immense problems like food and water shortages.

"If you wish to take Pakistan towards a prosperous and bright future, where there is no unemployment, no water shortages, no electricity problems and no agricultural shortages, you have to pay the taxes," she said.

Pakistan: PML, Religious Parties Unite To Oust Bhutto

BK1706130896 Karachi TAKBEER in Urdu 30 May 96 p 37

[Article by Farooq Adil from Karachi]

[FBIS Translated Text] What should be the strategy of the national political parties to challenge the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] in the next elections? The above question has been at the center of all discussions that the leaders of political parties have had in their extensive contacts recently. They more or less agree that all possible steps need to be taken to avoid the situation under which the reins of power have fallen into the hands of the PPP because of the wrong strategy adopted by the political parties in the 1993 elections. A working paper on the points on which the religious and political

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parties can reach a consensus and understanding has been prepared. The first point of that paper relates to the steps the parties have to take to oust this government from power. The working paper, among other things, also says that the political parties will protect themselves from the influence and gimmicks of the forces that had led to the humiliating defeat of the religious and democratic forces in the last elections and the subsequent usurping of power by the Pakistan People's Party. Therefore, in the next elections, a strategy needs to be adopted which could keep the PPP from grabbing power once again.

Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi says this working paper provides a basis for unity among the patriotic religious and political parties of the country and on this selfsame basis, a broad-based alliance is likely to come into existence, which will ensure the removal of the present government before the expiry of its term and the holding of the midterm elections in the country. An independent group led by Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan is playing a very significant role in helping to increase contacts between the opposition and certain government allies and creating an understanding between them on the basis of the aforementioned working paper. Nasrullah Khan unpretentiously desires to see the Benazir Bhutto government removed from power and has been backing Manzoor Wattoo, who has been taking tangible constitutional and legal steps toward this end. Nasrullah Khan has instructed Manzoor Wattoo to use his skills to increase the number of independent group members. Manzoor Wattoo is very actively pursuing this objective, because he wants to ensure that by the time the Supreme Court passes its judgment in his favor, the political ground is paved in such a way that it does not take much time for him to shake the foundations of this government. It is worth noting that Nasrullah Khan, who is also the chairman of the Parliamentary Kashmir Committee, is not happy with the government's attitude on very delicate national issues.

Against this detailed background, the reasons for Allamah Shah Ahmad Noorani's visit to Nawaz Sharif's house and later Nawaz Sharif's visit to the former's residence and the announcement about an understanding between the two become clearly understandable. The actual situation is that Nawaz Sharif has extricated himself from the influence of a section of the Pakistan Muslim League, which has been convincing him that if he came closer to the religious parties, he would not be able to regain the seat of power. After clearing its mind over this issue, the PML has prepared a strategy to revive its closer ties with the religious political parties and for this, Nawaz Sharif himself has extended his hands of friendship toward Shah Ahmad Noorani. His younger brother Mian Shahbaz Sharif has been holding negotiations with Maulana Samiul Haq, while Raja Zafarul Haq — a religious-minded person and firm believer in Islamic ideology — has been exchanging letters with the Jamaat-i-Islami. It was by virtue of Raja Zafarul Haq's efforts and the farsightedness of the Azad Kashmir wing of the Jamaat-i-Islami that an alliance between the Jamaat-i-Islami and the Muslim Conference led by Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan has been formed. Now, the people who desire to keep these natural allies together have begun work to widen the scope of this understanding between the two parties.

Nawaz Sharif's visit to Karachi on 18 May was also a part of this development. He flew into Karachi solely to have a luncheon meeting with Allamah Shah Ahmad Noorani, the chief of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan. Nawaz Sharif drove straight from the airport to Noorani's house. During an hour-long meeting, the two sides agreed to work together to remove the present government and to force general elections by the end of this year. The two parties rejected the new electoral lists, describing them as the first instance of rigging in the run up to the next general elections. They also called for the establishment of an independent and impartial election commission. The parties have decided to set up a committee to evolve a joint strategy on these points and an announcement about this will be made in the near future.

Meanwhile, Imran Khan, too, has hinted at joining the understanding that has been developing between the main opposition party and other national political parties on the issue of the holding of elections. Imran Khan says that if the present government is allowed to complete its full term, the country will become financially bankrupt. However, it is doubtful whether Imran Khan, the convener of the Movement for Justice, will also be a party to the alliance that is being formed to oppose the Pakistan People's Party. This is so because Imran Khan appears to be sitting smug, thinking that a wave of popular support will surge toward him in the coming months. There are reports that Imran Khan's popularity is fast increasing in several parts of the country, including in the urban areas of Punjab, and according to the latest survey, he enjoys the support of 14 percent of the country's total voters. In this situation, a question arises as to whether the outcome of next elections will not be the same as that of the 1993 polls. Whether it is a midterm election or an election after the completion of the present government's term, the emergence of Imran Khan as a third force in a race between the Pakistan People's Party and an alliance of main political parties of the country will definitely affect the results.

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Therefore, it is feared that plans are afoot to keep the People's Party in power once more. Another dangerous effort that is being made in this connection was revealed by Sardar Ateeq Ahmad, the chief organizer of the Azad Kashmir Muslim Conference, while talking to the participants of a breakfast meeting organized by Aleem Adil Sheikh, the provincial chief of the youth wing of the Muslim League; and Anwar Azim, the president of its Karachi division, on Sunday morning. He disclosed that an influential section of the country is trying to affix provincial labels on the country's national political parties. They are trying to brand the Muslim League as a party of the Punjab and the People's Party as a force in Sindh. Similarly, steps are also being taken to confine the religious parties, which play key role in national politics, to mosques and religious affairs only, so that their role—and ultimately the role of the religion — in national affairs be brought to end. He said that if this conspiracy is not checked in time, the national political scene will be more dangerous and disappointing than that of the election results in 1993, when liberal political observers, sitting on television, were expressing happiness over the defeat of the religious parties and were describing them as a force that was inferior to even minority groups.

Before concluding, I would like to write a few words about Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who, while addressing the Pakistan Democratic Front parliamentary party meeting before the current session of the National Assembly, advised her party workers to pay more attention to their respective constituencies because she might ask them to undertake a major task on a very short notice, because pressure is mounting on her from all sides. The prime minister has also asked the members of parliament belonging to her party to have their respective development projects completed and inaugurated before March 1997.

Pakistan: National Assembly Member 'Independents' To Form New Group

BK1906140296 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 Jun 96 p 12

[Report by Tariq Butt]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The so-called "independents" in the National Assembly have decided to form a group to play a political role, which is, however, yet to be specified? This group will comprise members of smaller parliamentary parties, and include "heavy-weights" like Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Mir Balakh Sher Mazari, Maulana Fazalur Rehman, Mir Zafarullah Jamali, and others.

Barring few, all these luminaries are staunch allies of the government, and enjoying unprecedented, rather scandalous, official perks and privileges.

Some disgruntled members of the two main political parties?and those having a craving for greener pastures may also establish contact with this group and assure their support when the time comes.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman informally confirmed Tuesday that independents have put their signatures on a paper to formalise the setting up of the group. However, he evaded the question about its objectives.

The Maulana agreed with a reporter that the group was bei6g formed to "eliminating the two major evils" — the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and PML(N) [Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)].

The PML(J) [Pakistan Muslim League (Junejo)] president, Amid Nasir Chattha, may not be feeling comfortable with the government for a variety of reasons and must be eying a larger-than-life role for himself, but is not expected to formally join the new group ope.19.

Similarly, the ANP [Awami National Party] will keep itself away from it.

However, the opposition may be willing to align with the group if it feels that the coterie will contribute to its campaign aimed at pulling down the government.

In the past, however, whenever such groups had been formed, they had mostly come to the rescue of the government to bail it out from a crisis. And in return, they were showered with whatever they liked.

Pakistan: Opposition—Resignations To Be 'Final Blow' to Government

BK1906140396 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Tariq Butt]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The parliamentary party of the opposition and its allies unanimously expressed the view Tuesday that it was the most opportune time to give a call to the people to "get rid of the anti-people and corrupt government."

The party reiterated that leader of the Opposition Nawaz Sharif may use resignations or the MNA's [Member of National Assembly] lying with him, whenever he chooses to do so and it will accept his decision [sentence as published].

It was decided to convene the PML(N) [Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)] Central Executive Committee (CEC) to put the deliberations of the parliamentary party

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before it for a final decision. There are indications that the CEC, which is to meet in the next few days, will give a call to launch a protestmovement against the government.

The discussion on the budget, alleged government corruption, the reported purchase of a 355-acre mansion by the PM [prime minister] in Surrey and the government's attitude towards the judiciary, which the parliamentary party began the other day, continued on Tuesday.

These remained inconclusive and will resume on Wednesday (today).

The presence of the opposition in the NA [National Assembly] was symbolic and as a result the proceedings remained orderly and smooth. However, some interest was generated by some so-called "independents" who are allies of the government.

Opposition spokesman Saddiqul Farooq told newsmen that the parliamentary party was of the view that resignations should be used when these would serve as a "final blow" to the government. According to him, the meeting was told that the PM has admitted to a group of her eight confidantes at a meeting that she had bought the sprawling mansion in Surry. "They also included the chief of Intelligence Bureau Mas'ud Sharif and senior FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] official Rehman Malik," the spokesman claimed.

The spokesman alleged that the PM directed the government agencies to initiate a fresh action against Nawaz Shahbaz and the Chaudhry family headed by Chaudhry Shujat Hussain and devise methods to take the government out of the present crisis.

Pakistan: Economic Coordination Committee Finds Budget 'Realistic'

BK1806141696 Islamabad THE NATION in English 18 Jun 96 pp 1,5

[PR Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD - The Economic Coordination Committee [ECC] of the Cabinet, which met here on Monday with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in the chair, discussed the post-budget situation and noted that considering the country's resource position and the inevitability of expenditure, the budget for 1996-97 appeared to be realistic and good.

The ECC was informed that for the year 1996-97, the country's expenditure, including that on development, was estimates to he about Rs[rupees] 500 billion. Out of this, Rs 186.1 billion would go towards debt servicing, Rs 131.4 billion for defence, Rs 16.5 billion in grants and Rs 8.3 billion in subsidies and Rs 105 billion for development. Debt servicing, defence and subsidies account for 87 per cent of revenues. If the salary and pension bill, which comes to about 8 percent is added to it, that leaves the government with only 5 per cent to run the country with. The ECC noted that this was already too little to allow any further squeeze. The government's net revenue receipts were only Rs 320.9 billion, including the amount of new taxation.

The Committee was informed that the overall fiscal deficit for 1996-97 was estimated to be Rs 1 41.6 billion which was proposed to be brought down to Rs 100.8 billion through additional resources mobilisation of Rs 40.8 billion. This deficit would represent only 4 per cent of GDP thus fulfilling yet another promise of the government to the nation.

The Committee was presented with a monthly report on the implementation of SNGPL Project-VI. The Committee was informed that the Zahirpur Janpur Section was completed in May this year. The construction targets of Sahiwal-Lahore Section pipeline were also being achieved and the work was expected to be completed by October this year.

The work of Faisalabad Galijagir Section was also progressing satisfactorily . With a view to cubing the menace of evasion/smuggling of Pakistani goods from across the border, the ECC decided that the rebate/zero-rating/remission of central excise duty may not be allowed on any other goods, except cigarettes, which were exported by land route. However, for export of consumer goods in retail packings to any country by land route, except cigarettes, Zero-rating/export rebate shall not be allowed if such packings bear the price in Pak Rupee and do not bear the following words "For Export Only, Not For Sale in Pakistan".

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